

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Budget guide
Listener's guide to the
Budget by Sarah Hogg,
economics editor



The rent of all
Roger Scruton explains
the value of money

Men at arms
How do the present
leaders match up to
Nato's founders?

Roy Jenkins writes on
the anniversary of
the alliance's 35th

Painted ladies
Fashion Page reflects on
today's colourful clothes

Second Test
John Woodcock reports
the first day of the

Second Test between
England and Pakistan at
Faisalabad

BBC staff set to obey court order

Members of the National Union of Journalists at BBC television are thought likely to work on the Budget programme tomorrow presented by Mr Dimbleby. The BBC obtained an injunction against the NUJ execution on Saturday ordering it to withdraw an instruction to "black" Mr Dimbleby. The union is in dispute with his south London newspaper group.

Offer to Swap

South Africa said it was willing to take part in a peace conference with the South West African People's Organization and other parties concerned with Namibia. Page 7

Gulf peace bid

Gulf states stepped up their efforts to bring the war between Iran and Iraq to an end as fierce fighting continued around Majnoon island. Page 6

Greenland goes

After two years of negotiations, Greenland has put the seal on its withdrawal from the EEC by approving a package of exit proposals. Page 4

Out of pocket

Average weekly pocket money for young people aged under 17 has been cut by 14 per cent, according to the annual Pocket Money Monitor. Page 3

Greek 'overkill'

Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, has been accused of overkill for his handling of last week's naval crisis in the Aegean. Page 6

Mortgage study

The Building Societies Association has set up a working party to look at mortgage arrears, which, because of the recession and unemployment, have reached record levels. Page 3

BNOC victory

After a year-long government review, BNOC is expected to retain its right to buy 51 per cent of North Sea Oil and fix prices. Page 17

England choice

England's rugby union team to play Wales at Twickenham on Saturday includes two new caps in Paul Rendell and Andy Dun, both of Wasp. Page 18

Cup replay

Sheffield Wednesday and Southampton drew 0-0 in the sixth round of the FA Cup at Hillsborough. The replay will be tomorrow week. Page 19

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Welsh revolt over strike widens split among miners

By Barrie Clement and Tim Jones

The traditionally militant South Wales miners yesterday overwhelmingly rejected the call to strike against pit closures with a vote which widens a national split in the workforce. Fewer than half Britain's miners have now been called out on strike today, while most of the rest, including Nottinghamshire with 32,000 men, have opted for ballots which are likely to reject the action. Some small areas have decided, like South Wales, to work on. Scotland, Yorkshire, Kent and Durham, with 83,000 men out of a 180,000 total, are due to strike from the first morning shift today. Even in these areas some miners have voted against striking.

In South Wales men at 16 pits and three other transport and washery lodges decided to work today. The recommendation to stop work was supported at only six pits.

The vote astonished their leaders who had decided by a large majority to back the action. Executive members of the South Wales division of the National Union of Mineworkers will meet today to try to discover why men from one of the most militant coalfields defied their leaders.

Mr Emylv Williams, their president, said: "I have been

leading the South Wales miners for 25 years and never before encountered a rejection like this."

The decision is particularly embarrassing to Mr Williams because he proposed the successful motion at the national executive meeting last week that local stoppages should be supported by the union.

It is thought, Welsh miners were angry that Yorkshire colleagues had not backed them last year in the fight to save the Lewis Merthyr Mawr colliery.

The union is now in a difficult position, which could strengthen calls for a national ballot on the action, a suggestion already rejected by the executive.

An Independent Television poll for yesterday's *Weekend World* programme showed that if the leadership called for a vote the strike would be supported.

The poll, conducted among a cross-section of 1,000 miners, showed 62 per cent would back a stoppage over pit closures and 33 per cent would oppose it. Five per cent did not know.

The research revealed the disparity between areas. In Yorkshire 77 per cent voted for a strike and 20 per cent against. In Nottinghamshire 39 per cent

voted for a stoppage and 53 per cent against.

When asked on the programme if he did not preclude the possibility of an eventual ballot, Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president said: "As a sensible trade union leader I would never rule out any possibility."

Elsewhere yesterday the Northumberland area, with 5,300 men, voted six pits to two against their executive's strike recommendation. In Durham three pits rejected the strike call, but eight said they would come out.

A pithead ballot will be held today in Staffordshire. At Stoke-on-Trent the union's power group leaders backed the call for a national ballot.

The reaction to the strike call presents big problems for flying pickets. It is difficult to see how one half of the industry could picket the other half. Demonstrations are expected however, in some areas, especially Nottinghamshire, where pickets from Yorkshire and Scotland are thought to be inevitable, despite their leaders' disapproval.

Mr Ray Chadburn, The Nottinghamshire miners' president, who was among the first to suggest an area ballot, asked

Continued on back page, col 6

Britain puts Libya under pressure

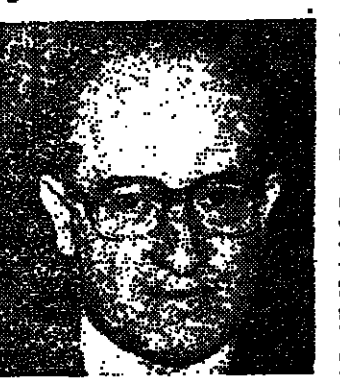
By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain's relations with Tripoli seemed near to breaking point last night, amid suspicion of Libyan involvement in the bombs which shook parts of London and Manchester at the weekend, injuring a number of people.

Two senior officials from the Libyan People's Bureau in London were swiftly summoned to the Foreign Office and told to report back today with a suitable reply from Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

This followed the sternly worded message from Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, which was delivered to the authorities in Tripoli by Mr Oliver Miles, the British Ambassador.

Although, as Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office said in a radio interview yesterday, there is no conclusive proof that Libyans were behind the terrorist attacks, Colonel Gaddafi can be in no doubt that the finger of suspicion is being pointed at agents of his Government.



Mr Miles: Delivered stern note in Tripoli.

Mr Hamed Zaitni and Mr Muftah Fitouri, both from the political section of the People's Bureau, spent 35 minutes with Mr Stephen Egerton, an assistant under-secretary at the Foreign Office, who warned them that ministers were "extremely concerned" and were monitoring developments closely.

They were then asked to report this latest British démarche to the authorities in Tripoli, and seek some "clarification of their attitude".

The earlier message from Sir Geoffrey Howe was sent after the London bombings, but before those in Manchester. It emphasized that the use of British territory for acts of terrorism by any foreign group was "totally unacceptable".

Any repetition of the incidents of 1980, when three Libyan critics of Colonel Gaddafi in this country were murdered was "bound to have a serious effect on our relations".

Britain has maintained normal commercial relations with Libya despite the 1980 killings. With about 8,000 British subjects living in Libya, not to mention nearly £300m-worth of exports to Tripoli last year, London would be reluctant to sever the link.

The Foreign Office has been uncertain about whom to deal with at the People's Bureau, which is what Libyans now call their old Embassy in St James's Square, since a group of students seized control three weeks ago. They apparently dismissed the chargé d'affaires and set up their own political committee instead.

Exiles protected, page 2

Maurice Macmillan dies at 63

By Our Political Editor

Viscount Macmillan of Ovenside, known for almost the whole of his political life as Mr Maurice Macmillan, died at the weekend aged 63 following a heart operation from which he seemed to be recovering well.

He was Conservative MP for South West Surrey and served in the Cabinet of Mr Edward Heath as Secretary of State for Employment at a time when relations between government and the trade unions, aggravated by the passage of the Industrial Relations Act 1971, were at their most difficult.

Viscount Macmillan was the only son of the former Prime Minister, Mr Harold Macmillan, who was created Earl of Stockton on his nineteenth birthday on February 10. His family said he died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday morning. The operation had taken place last Tuesday.

Mr Margaret Thatcher said his death was "a grievous blow". Mr Heath, a contemporary at Oxford University, spoke of his great personal loss and paid tribute to his former colleague's notable contribution to the House of Commons for nearly 30 years.

His eldest son, Alexander, aged 40, the chairman of the family publishing firm, will now take the courtesy title and become heir to the Earldom.

Viscount Macmillan's funeral will be held on Wednesday and will be private. A memorial service will be held later in St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

Obituary, page 14

Acas unease at GCHQ posting

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Officials at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) agreed with considerable reluctance to post one of their senior experts to Government Communications Headquarters, it is understood.

The Government had no power to order the secondment, which was announced last Friday, but Acas felt that it had been put in a position where it was difficult to refuse a request.

Acas considered that a refusal would have been taken by the Cabinet as support for opposition to a ban on trade unions at GCHQ and would have confirmed in the minds of some

that the service was "pro-union". At an emergency meeting of the council of Acas this week, the three union representatives will undoubtedly point out that the service evidently preferred to be thought pro-Government by unions than pro-union by the Government.

The service has encountered severe criticism from the labour movement for seconding Mr John Lambert, head of the conciliation service, to oversee industrial relations at the complex. The impartiality of Acas was at stake, it was argued.

Clearly the possibility of a boycott of the service by the union representatives is now more likely as TUC committees decide from which tripartite bodies to withdraw as part of their campaign against Cabinet policy on GCHQ.

Acas decided that because most of its staff belonged to the Department of Employment group of civil servants and were used to being transferred in and out, that GCHQ should not be made an exception.

Acas considered that it should not be seen as setting itself up as a judge of a dispute where the national interest was involved.

Mr Jopling, clearly under orders from 10 Downing Street to agree to nothing that would cost any money, said: "We must continue to live within our means." But "if the summit were to tell us that more money

cuts and freezes but which would still cost the EEC hundreds of millions of pounds more than it has available. The fact that France had tabled the paper was welcomed by Mr Michael Jopling, the British Agriculture Minister, even though he proceeded to pick large holes in many of its details and to criticize its glaring omissions.

Mr Jopling, clearly under orders from 10 Downing Street to agree to nothing that would cost any money, said: "We must continue to live within our means." But "if the summit were to tell us that more money

From Ian Murray, Brussels

was available, that would be different". The British minister could not name anyone else who shared his point of view, although he said he detected a growing realism that there had to be savings.

The European Commission, which constitutionally is the only institution which can make proposals, is studying the French paper to see whether to adopt any part of it. It will be particularly interested in the price-cut recommendations.

The proposals that M Michel, Bocard, the French minister, gave to his colleagues yesterday do represent draconian cuts by Community standards and can be guaranteed to make him very unpopular among French farmers.

They would mean a 1 per cent cut in the price of cereals, sugar, wine and all kinds of meats. They would mean a freeze in the price of durum wheat (used widely on the Continent for bread making) and milk. They would mean cuts of 1 per cent in the prices put forward by the Commission early this year for many other products.

The Commission itself is expected to be making a new set of proposals today. The fact that France has at last



Syria gives Gemayel hope of Lausanne settlement

From Robert Fisk, Lausanne

With little enough evidence in Beirut to support his optimism, President Gemayel arrived in Lausanne yesterday for what must surely be his last chance of reconciliation with the leaders of his country's Muslim militias, declaring that the talks between himself, the main political parties and the Syrians offered hope of "real peace in Lebanon".

But Mr Gemayel had apparently earlier been encouraged by discreet promises from Damascus that the Shi'a Muslim Amal movement, expressed his own optimism yesterday, although Mr Salaf Jumblatt, whose Druze militias represent an equal threat to Mr Gemayel's regime, said he was sceptical that progress could be made in Lausanne. The reconciliation conference is due to begin this morning but may be delayed a few hours to give Mr Khaddam time to arrive.

Anxious to prove that Syria can produce peace where America failed, the Syrians are also concerned that the renewed relationship between Mr Yassar

Arafat, the PLO leader, and King Hussein of Jordan will take the spotlight away from Damascus and the bloodshed of Lebanon and that Syria's political victory may go unrecognized in the Arab world.

Encouraged by Damascus, Mr Nabih Berri, the leader of the Shi'a Muslim Amal movement, expressed his own optimism yesterday, although Mr Salaf Jumblatt, whose Druze militias represent an equal threat to Mr Gemayel's regime, said he was sceptical that progress could be made in Lausanne. The reconciliation conference is due to begin this morning but may be delayed a few hours to give Mr Khaddam time to arrive.

With Beirut airport closed, the delegates left for Lausanne through Damascus or on a series of heavily-guarded heli-

Tebbit to cancel trade meeting in Japan

By John Lawless

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is expected to announce today that he has cancelled an important visit to Japan in May.

He has written to several Japanese ministers explaining that "pressure of parliamentary work" makes the visit impossible and that he is, at this stage, unable to suggest an alternative date.



Mr Tebbit: Pressure of parliamentary work.

The cancellation will cause considerable embarrassment in international trade circles. It is the second time in less than a year that a British Trade and Industry secretary has had to reject a Japanese invitation to discuss what Japan sees as pressing issues.

A trip last year was cancelled because of the resignation of Mr Cecil Parkinson.

The Japanese are under increasing pressure to cut their trade surplus. They were anxious to show the British that they are genuinely trying to promote manufactured imports.

Mr Tebbit was also expected to discuss what Japan might be planning to do in terms of more industrial investment in Britain.

What makes the cancellation of his visit more acutely felt is that the most important mission of Japanese finance specialists to Britain for several years starts a week of talks in London today.

Soaring surplus, page 17

No drugs used by team says Botham

By Rupert Morris

An investigation is to be held by the Test and County Cricket Board into allegations of England players taking drugs, holding drinking parties and womanising on their recently completed tour of New Zealand.

Clouds gathered over the England team as Ian Botham, the former England captain, fought his way past photographers at Heathrow Airport yesterday (left) as he returned early from the tour of New Zealand and Pakistan.

Although the reason for Botham's return was the aggravation of an old knee injury, it is clear that he will have other pressing matters to deal with on behalf of the England team following the allegations.

Mr Donald Carr, secretary of the TCCB, was at the airport to meet him and said: "The allegations are of a very serious nature and the TCCB will have to consider its position."

He made it clear that the career of any England player found to have taken part in any illegal activity would be in jeopardy.

As Botham pushed his luggage trolley through a scrum of photographers, he said: "There were no drugs at all being used by me or any other member of the England team."

Asked about reported drunkenness, he said: "I enjoy a pint. Is that a crime? The only thing that can affect my career is my operation."

Botham, who was driven away from Heathrow by his parents-in-law, along with his wife Kathy and their two young children, said matters were in the hands of his solicitors.

John Woodcock, page 21

Gunmen abduct 2 police officers

By Stewart Tendler and Sandra Hempel

The police sealed off roads across a wide area of West Sussex last night in a hunt for armed men holding two police officers hostage in their car after a chase during which another officer was shot and seriously wounded.

The police patrol car vanished at the village of Fittleworth, near Midhurst, after trying to intercept two men who were driving a car stolen at gunpoint.

Last night the police were watching roads on the borders with Surrey and Hampshire, but they believed that the missing car was boxed in in an area of about 30 miles radius, not far from where it was last seen.

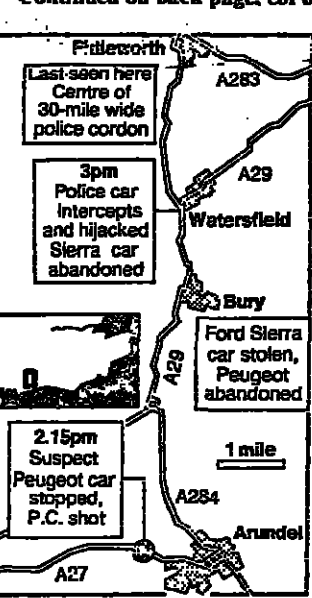
The incident began at about 12.15 pm yesterday when officers stopped a blue Peugeot near Arundel on the A27. As two constables went to the car a struggle started with two men. PC Timothy Phillips was shot in the right thigh and PC Robert Ellis was also injured.

The men, armed with a handgun, drove off in the Peugeot and then hijacked a gold Ford Sierra as its driver sat at a local beauty spot at Bury, north of Arundel. The fugitives sped further north as the police began to pursue them.

Just before 3pm Sussex police headquarters at Lewes was told by one of its patrol cars that the Ford had been sighted at Watersfield and the officers were about to intercept it. That was the last that Sussex police heard from the white Vauxhall Cavalier police car, registration number A280DNJ.

It was manned by two unarmed police constables and witnesses in Fittleworth said that they believed they were held up by the gunmen, who then took over their car. Last night Sussex police said that the abandoned Sierra had been found in Fittleworth.

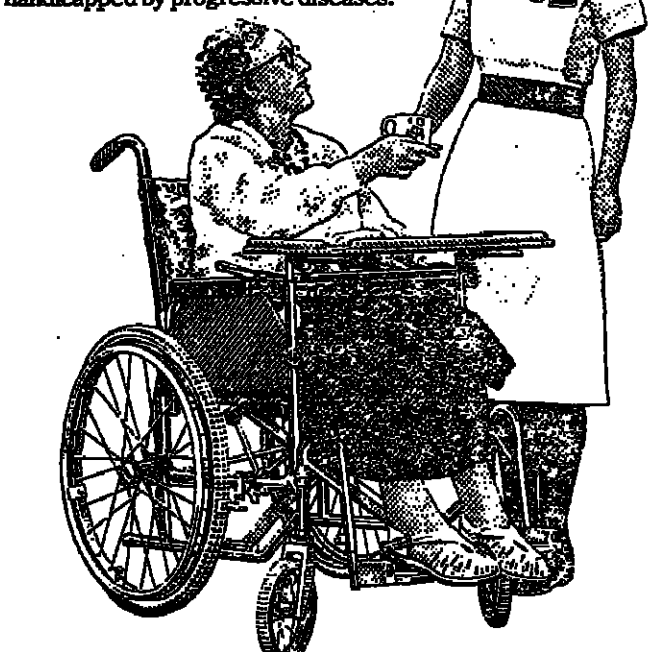
The two missing officers have been named as PC Robin Rager, aged 27, married, and PC Liam Codling, aged 38. Continued on back page, col 6



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Key Libyan targets get armed guards after wave of bomb attacks

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The police are maintaining armed guard on some key figures in Britain's expatriate Libyan community after 26 people were injured at the weekend in bomb attacks in London and Manchester.

The attacks, which involved a total of seven bombs, are thought to be the work of terrorists supporting Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

Scotland Yard had issued a warning to the Libyan community of possible attacks after intelligence reports, including information from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

On Saturday 23 people were injured, three seriously, when a bomb, thought to have been left under a table, exploded in a club in Berkeley Street, Mayfair, known as L'Auberge. The club, once known as the Blue Angel, has a Middle East clientele and is reported to be partly Libyan-owned.

Yesterday a couple and their child were slightly injured as they slept in their basement home in Alness Road, Whalley Range, Manchester, when

soldiers failed to defuse a bomb left at a house near by in which Libyans were living.

Army explosives experts had been called to the area after a car bomb exploded in the car park of the target house without causing injury.

The family slept through the first explosion, did not hear the police clearing the area, and were finally awoken when the controlled explosion of a device left on a window ledge near their home went wrong.

It set off the main 2lb explosive and afterwards Mr Charles Horan, Assistant Chief Constable of Manchester, said that there would be an inquiry.

"When we originally evacuated, officers went right round the house and one officer actually hammered on the door of the cellar where these people were sleeping. We did not know they were there at the time."

Mr Horan repeated Scotland Yard's warning to Libyans and said that a Libyan businessman and his family in Manchester were receiving armed police

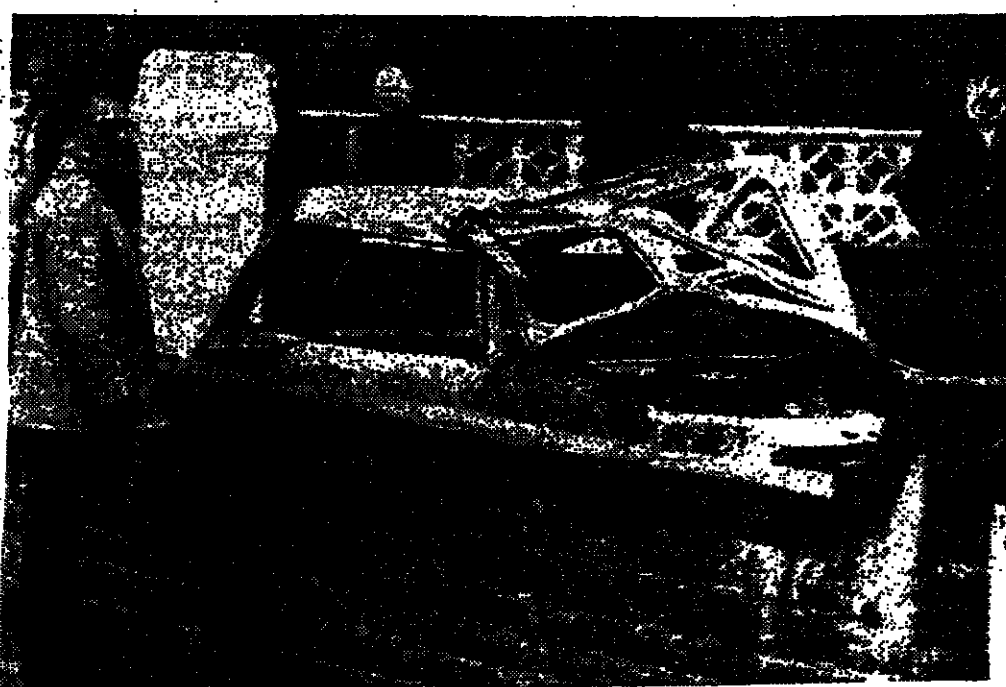
protection. The man was given a bodyguard after information indicating that he was particularly at risk.

Four of the bomb attempts in London were aimed at newsagents or news stands which sell Arab newspapers. Scotland Yard had said that they might be targets.

Two bombs were left at newsagents in Queensway, Bayswater: one exploded but the second was defused. The other two were left close to a news stand at Palace Gate near Hyde Park but they were discovered and also defused.

The bombings are the first serious sign of Libyan rivalries in Britain for several years, although there have been attacks on dissidents in recent years which have not drawn any publicity.

Estimates of the number of Libyans living in Britain vary. One Middle Eastern expert yesterday calculated that there may be as many as 15,000, including students and businessmen, but only 3,000 long-term residents.



The remains of a car bomb which exploded in Manchester yesterday.

Labour backs Falkland inquiry

From Richard Faux, Perth

A public inquiry into the Prime Minister's conduct of the Falklands conflict was demanded yesterday on the Scottish conference of the Labour Party's final day in Perth. Delegates also called for an independent judicial inquiry into the sinking of the Argentine cruiser Belgrano.

Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for West Lothian, who has made the conduct of the Falklands campaign a personal crusade, was applauded loudly when he stood up to address the conference holding a copy of his book *The Sinking of the Belgrano*, solemnly in front of him. He recommended delegates to read it.

The charge against Mrs Thatcher, he said, could not be greater and he dismissed the explanation which Mr Cecil Parkinson, former Conservative Party chairman and member of the "War Cabinet" gave on television yesterday that the Belgrano had been "a threat to our boys".

If Mr Parkinson was going to

explain away the offence he should have a better answer than that, Mr Dalyell said. If the Argentine warship really had been a threat to the task force why was action not taken earlier after the cruiser and its escorts had been detected, Mr Dalyell asked.

He insisted that Mrs Thatcher had known what the position was before she gave the

orders to sink the cruiser, moving the conflict from second to fifth gear.

The conference demanded that Labour called for a public inquiry into Mrs Thatcher's conduct, to investigate the extent of the Government's knowledge of Argentina's invasion plans and examine the Prime Minister and War Cabinet's actions to intensify hostilities while diplomatic peace moves were in progress.

Any Labour government should immediately negotiate with Argentina and with representatives of the Falkland Islanders to draw up a just treaty to guarantee the islanders' democratic rights.

The conference agreed on devolution for Scotland, with an assembly holding power to legislate and raise taxes, although the hard core of anti-devolutionists conspicuously kept their counsel until, as one of them put it, there was a really serious likelihood of an assembly being established.

Maze prison man's widow urges staff to speak out

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Mrs McConnell said that her husband had been seconded from his normal duties as the prison to a secretariat assisting the team, led by Sir James, inquiring into the escape by 38 convicts last September.

"Bill had been aware that Sir James and the team had been given knowledge, but for whatever reason it was not contained in the report. He could only assume that political constraints were such that Sir James' report had been mellowed or curtailed for some political reason," Mrs McConnell said.

She said that anyone who knew things which had allowed a situation to be "coloured" should consider very carefully bringing them into the open.

The Hennessy Report described weaknesses in security at the Maze and was severely critical of staff for laxness, complacency, and deficiency in middle-ranking management.

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Four shot in Londonderry riots after loyalist march

By Richard Ford

Four people were recovering in hospital yesterday from injuries received during rioting and petrol bombing after a "loyalist" protest march in Londonderry.

Troops and police came under fire from the republican Bogside area of the city before the demonstration began on Saturday. Fire was returned, but no one was injured.

However, several people were injured during clashes involving loyalists and republicans as the parade passed near Bogside.

Groups of loyalist youths incensed by an Irish republican tricolour flying from a block of flats attempted to break through police barricades and later republican youths hurled petrol bombs at the police from the roof of the flats.

More than 100 missiles were thrown during three hours of petrol bombing, which ended early yesterday when the police fired several rounds of plastic

bullets to disperse a mob of 60 youths.

Ten policemen were injured during the disturbances which occurred at a time when sectarian tension in the city is high.

Two officers were detained in hospital and two other people were transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast where they are receiving treatment for fractured skulls.

About 2,000 loyalists paraded through the city to protest at the change of title from Londonderry to Derry City Council and were addressed by the Rev Ian Paisley.

The march organized by the Londonderry Loyalist Action Committee was also attended by Mr Andy Tyrer, commander of the Ulster Defence Association, the province's biggest loyalist paramilitary group.

It was the third demonstration in three weeks aimed at the name change which has been agreed.

Boy's body found in stream

The body of a boy was found in a stream at Beverley, Humberside, yesterday afternoon and a post-mortem examination was being performed.

Humberside police said: "We are treating it as murder at this stage."

Det. Chief Supt Peter Baker, who is leading the inquiry, has also been in charge of the search for Christopher Lovett, aged nine, who has been missing from his sister's home in Hull 12 miles away since Friday night.

Rate capping 'saving money already'

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Rate capping has started to save ratepayers money even before it has passed into law, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said on Saturday.

He told a Conservative Party local government conference in London that an independent survey said that government pressure has helped to push down the real level of spending by councils.

Mr Jenkin said that the second council to be capped next year would be Basildon District Council in Essex, which he called "Moscow down the Thames". The first is the Greater London Council.

The survey, from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, goes further than a government statement.

last week that rate rises to be levied in England next month would be similar to last year's.

The institute said that the average domestic rate increase would be 5.1 per cent, compared with 6.8 per cent last year.

Rises outside London would be slightly greater than last year, it said, but the national average would be pulled down by a halving of the increase in London from almost 12 per cent last year to less than 6 per cent.

Mr Jenkin said that the figures confounded last year's forecasts of much steeper increases. They included Labour and Conservative councillors and associations of councils, as well as the *Financial Times*.

Police sure of pianist's killer

South Yorkshire police are convinced that they know the identity of the killer of Miss Lily Stephenson, aged 61, a public house pianist who was raped and battered near her Barnsley home in 1962.

They have made fresh inquiries in Preston and the Midlands. Det. Chief Insp Albert Padgett said: "It is only a matter of time before the killer is brought to justice."

Dog's shopping cart 'illegal'

Mr Mike Carter, a carpenter, of Yate, near Bristol, has been told that he may be prosecuted if he continues to let his dog take groceries home in a specially-built cart.

The RSPCA says that using the cart breaks the 1911 Protection of Animals Act.

Cross-channel strike threat

Cross-Channel and Irish Sea ferry services are threatened with possible strikes over the introduction of a Swedish-owned vessel, the *Stena Sailor*, on the Heysham to Belfast route.



Obstacle course competitors in the twelfth Round London Marathon for inflatable boats powered by outboard motors, which began at Putney Harbo and ended there yesterday (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Countryside group to woo farmers

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Leading conservationists held out an olive branch to farmers at the weekend, urging them to join in seeking changes to a system which was destroying the countryside in order to produce unwanted surplus.

Speakers at a conference organised by Oxford Polytechnic made it clear that they were seeking conciliation rather than continued conflict. The present imbalance between arable crops and livestock was bad for farming and, if there was a villain, it was Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who was pursuing policies which actively promoted conflict.

Mr William Wilkinson, chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council, said that farmers had a right to expect to earn an adequate return on what had become a very considerable investment.

It should not be beyond human ingenuity to devise a system - which transferred government money to limit production to reduce costs, and therefore assist nature conservation.

Britain's farmers have also been accused of hoarding potatoes to push up the price.

The McCain Foods Company is putting 400 workers on short time at its frozen chip factory at Whiteley, Cambridgeshire, today because it cannot get sufficient potatoes at the right price to maintain full production.

The company pays £160 a ton but prices are expected to reach £200 a ton. "Farmers are sitting on their stocks and are reluctant to sell," said a company spokesman.

Prehistoric horse footprints found

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Fossil footprints made 3.5 million years ago have been uncovered of *Hipporion*, the forerunner of the horse. A comparison of the footprints with some made deliberately in tests with today's domestic creature shows that the prehistoric tracks were made by three animals: two adults accompanied by a foal. They had moved with a running walk across a slippery surface of soft volcanic ash.

An analysis of the footprints by Dr Elise Renslers, of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the State University, Utrecht, the Netherlands, even concludes that volcanic ash was falling when the animals were passing through the area. A criss-cross pattern in the trails

of the juvenile and adult *Hipporion* was similar to the travelling behaviour of mares and foals of today's horses.

In addition to the marks of the primitive horses, there were prints alongside the trail of a hominid.

Apart from dinosaurs tracks, analysis of fossil footprints has been limited.

The way in which the gait and movement of a creature which lived three and a half million years ago can be determined from fossilized footprints is described in the current issue of *Nature*.

The report is accompanied by some remarkable photographs of the imprints, which look like large pockmarks on a lunar-type landscape.

Monday Club loses 3 more

By Our Political Editor

The trouble in the mainly Conservative right-wing Monday Club, which began last week with the resignation of its political adviser, Mr John Pinniger, continued with the announcement yesterday of three more resignations.

Miss Sheenagh Gordon, who fought Glasgow Provins for the Conservatives last June, said that she supported Mr Pinniger's view that the club was harbouring racists and extremists.

The other resignations were of Mr Simon McIlwain, former chairman of Cambridge University Monday Club, and Mr Graham Rhodes, a former officer of the Scottish Monday Club.

NHS plan for 'jumbo' authority

Consideration is being given to creating a new 'jumbo' health authority in London just two years after ministers rejected the idea in the 1982 reorganization of the National Health Service.

The aim would be to create an authority capable of coping with the big reductions in acute hospital beds that will have to be made in the area in the next decade.

The move would merge the Victoria and Hammersmith Health Authority with Fulham to produce the third or fourth biggest health authority in England, with a budget of more than £100m and almost 10,000 staff.

The authority would take in Charing Cross and Westminster teaching hospitals; the latter's long-term future is in question.

The move has been prompted in part by the highly successful merger that has been talking between Charing Cross and Westminster medical schools - which Westminster initially resisted - and by the belief that a big authority would provide much more room for manoeuvre to make the difficult changes ahead.

Custody death inquest

By Craig Seton

Three pathologists who conducted post mortem examinations are also expected to be called.

Mr Davey, aged 40, who had spent 20 years in jail for parole, collapsed and went into a coma after an incident at the main police station

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Rucksacks gets short shrift from mariners

A new service rucksack being tested by Royal Marines in Norway is proving a disappointment.

The men complain it is too wide and too short and that a lack of a waistbelt means that it constantly rolls around the back. Its straps have painfully trapped the shoulder nerves on some shorter mariners.

The latest tests come after constant criticism of the old standard-issue rucksack. Most Royal Marines buy their own rucksacks privately because they are so dissatisfied with the official one and when the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, reviewed 30 marines recently, not one was carrying the old standard model.

Late-race Oxford win at chess

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

Oxford beat Cambridge 4½-3½ in the universities' annual chess match at the RAC club in Pall Mall on Saturday.

They were favourites as they had won the three previous contests and had much the more experienced team containing William Watson on first board and Kenneth Regan on third board, two of the best players in the country.

The Scotsman, Colin McNaughton, on second board and the Old Etonian, John Cox, on fifth, were FIDE masters.

Despite this, the struggle was even, and after a 20-move draw on the bottom board between the ladies Cambridge took the lead through Matthew Eke's 36 move victory over Erik Teichmann. This game was awarded second prize for the Cambridge team's best played games.

The balance was soon restored when John Hawksworth

won a fine game on fourth board for Oxford against Allan Beardsworth. This game deservedly won first prize for Oxford's best played game.

After that the advantage swung to and fro and the score was 3½ all, with one game, on board two, still in progress at the end.

An accelerated rate of play was put in motion under the competitive recent rules and victory went to McNaughton.

The event was sponsored and organized by Lloyds Bank.

The individual results, with Oxford names first, were: Board one, William Watson (Merton) 0 Andrew Dyson (Trinity) 1, Robertsch defence, 42 moves; board two, Colin McNaughton (Queen's) 1 Stephen Bell (Emmanuel) 0, QP King's Indian defence, 61 board three, Kenneth Regan (Merton) 0 David Walker (Trinity) 1, QP Queen's

Indian defence, 34; board four, John Hawksworth (Jesus) 1 Allan Beardsworth (Clare) 0, QP Benoni defence, 31; board five, John Cox (Corpus Christi) 1 Gareth Anthony (Trinity Hall) 0, Sicilian defence, 34; board six, Jonathan Levitt (Magdalen) 1 Michael Kerridge (Trinity) 0, QP King's Indian defence, 43; board seven, Erik Teichmann (Magdalen) 0 Matthew Eke (Anthony) 1, QGD Orthodox defence, 26; board eight, Anita Rakshit (St Hilda's) ½ Penelope Coxon (Newham) ½, Sicilian defence 20.

The prizes for the best played games in the Oxford team went to Hawksworth for his win against Beardsworth and to Teichmann for his game against Rakshit and to Walker for his game against Regan and to Eke for his game against Teichmann.

Doctor in heroin case to be struck off

A Harley Street doctor who sold prescriptions for dangerous drugs to addicts has been ordered to be struck off the medical register.

Dr Herman Tarnesby, aged 62, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct for irresponsibly issuing prescriptions for heroin substitutes.

Dr Tarnesby, who was born in Germany and was suspended from the register for one year in 1970 for advertising to do abortions, has 28 days to appeal against the judgment.

Mr Robin Simpson, QC, for the General Medical Council, told a professional conduct committee hearing in London that Dr Tarnesby sold a young

addict Rosemary Turner, prescriptions for diabolical pills, a heroin substitute, worth £3,000 on the black market, four days before she died of drug addiction.

Asked how much he had charged, Dr Tarnesby said: "I think she was charged about £15 or £20 for the lot."

He said that Dr Tarnesby lived in a house in Hampstead Garden Suburb in north London, which had a value of £36,000 (£24,000 share in a house in Florida).

Dr Tarnesby admitted issuing prescriptions for three heroin substitutes in an irresponsible manner between October 1981 and February 1983.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, KEW

Continuing problems with the air conditioning system mean that the Public Record Office at Kew will remain closed to the public until further notice.

Information on progress may be obtained from the office by telephoning 01 876 3444, but intending readers are advised not to make plans at present to visit Kew.

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Mortgage arrears reach record levels because of stagnant house prices

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Mortgage arrears have reached record levels, according to the Building Societies Association, which is investigating what remedial action can be taken.

The association and individual societies are reluctant to divulge figures, which they regard as confidential, but the association's latest statistics show that about 32,000 borrowers are in arrears of more than six months, compared with about 10,000 in 1979.

The number of those in arrears of 6 to 12 months has increased from 8,400 in 1979 to 25,900. There are a total of six million borrowers.

During the same period repossessions have increased from 2,500 to 7,400, about a third of which are voluntary.

The association's spokesman, Mr Mark Boleat, said that 1979 was the lowest year for arrears and repossessions, which tended to accentuate the increase. Since 1970 arrears had not increased in proportion, although repossessions were higher.

The cycle of arrears is linked

to house prices. When prices are rising rapidly, people in arrears can sell and move down market, or remortgage their home. If prices are stagnant, as they have been for the last year or two, that is not possible.

Mr Boleat said. The main cause of mortgage difficulties remains marital breakdown, although unemployment has overtaken it among Woolwich borrowers. Since marital breakdowns have not doubled in the past five years, the recession is the main cause of the increase, Mr Boleat said.

It is not unemployment as such which causes arrears, because the Government pays the mortgage interest in supplementary benefit, but other factors, such as loss of overtime, or a wife's job. Neither loss is made good by benefit.

Supplementary benefit helps to underpin the property market. In Holland, where there is no such cover, the property market has collapsed because of the large number of repossessions.

The biggest building society, the Halifax, with 1,184,000 borrowers, has seen a doubling in serious arrears since 1979, from one to two in a thousand. The society says that is lower than average because it is careful not to allow overcommitment and tries to tackle difficulties as early as possible.

Repossessions also doubled to about six in ten thousand, although Halifax's figures show that the situation eased last year, compared with 1982.

The society said: "When a borrower gets into difficulties the society does all it can to avoid repossession, by extending the payment period, suspending capital repayment, or even suspending payment period, suspending capital repayment, or even suspending payment totally for a time."

Children's pocket money cut by 14%

By Rupert Morris

Average weekly pocket money for Britain's 10 million five to sixteen-year-olds has been cut from £1.22 to £1.05 in the past year, a fall of 14 per cent, according to the annual Pocket-Money Monitor published today by Walls Ice Cream.

Gifts from relatives and friends have also fallen, from 72p to 48p.

But average weekly earnings from Saturday and other part-time jobs have risen from 28p to 44p.

The survey shows that boys have been worst affected by the cut in pocket money; their average being reduced by 23p, to £1.01 - while girls saw their income reduced by 6p, to £1.09. It is the third time in 10 years that girls' income has been higher.

The figures contrast with last year's record 29 per cent increase in pocket money.

A sample of 559 people was used for the survey.

Year	Total (p)	Boys	Girls	5-7	8-10	11-13	14-16
1975	33	n/a	n/a	12.5	28	40	57.5
1976	36	n/a	n/a	13	28.5	42	62
1977	45	n/a	n/a	22	38.5	55	63
1978	62	63	57.5	32	46	65	102
1979	78	78	78	34	52.5	82.5	118.5
1980	89	89	89	39	66	108	151.5
1981	113	117	108	55	87	132	173
1982	144.5	93	95.5	84	74	113.5	128
1983	122	124	115	80	103	147	178
1984	105	101	109	42	73	113	187
% change	+218	-	-	+236	+217	+182	+225

Source: Walls' Pocket Money Monitor by Gallup

City seeks best brick hurler

Left-wing Liverpool City Council was criticized yesterday for staging an organized riot. Youngsters competed in a brick-throwing and shouting contest at the council's Everton Park Sports Centre, near Sir Thomas White Gardens, the flats where the police were pelted with bricks and paving stones for three consecutive nights two years ago.

Fourteen of yesterday's competitors were selected for the brick-throwing final at the International Garden Festival in May.

Mr Sydney Moss, Conservative spokesman on Merseyside police committee, said: "Youngsters will think brick-throwing is normal behaviour." Mr Bromley Clarke, who is running the events, replied: "It is just harmless fun aimed at getting community involvement. This is a proper fringe sport with a world record."

Children saved by babysitter

Kay Hodgkiss, a babysitter aged 16, saved four children in a fire yesterday. Afterwards a police spokesman said: "But for her bravery and presence of mind, all four could have died."

The girl, of Kiveton Park, near Sheffield, was babysitting for a neighbour when the fire broke out. She led the children, aged from two to eight, to safety after smashing a window with her bare hands.

Man dies as car falls into creek

A man aged died yesterday when a car plunged 40 feet from a motorway into a creek.

Trevor Blackburn, of Belvedere Gardens, West Molesey, Surrey, was trapped inside the submerged car after crashing through barriers off the M27 motorway at Cosham, near Portsmouth, Hampshire. Two teenagers escaped from the car.

Sandringham to raise charges

The Queen is to increase admission charges to Sandringham House, and its grounds by 20p this season. The public will have to pay £1.50 to enter the Jacobean-style mansion. Pensioners will pay £1.20 and children 80p, a rise of 10p.

Camra finds price of a pint varies by 30p

Britain's beer drinkers face a big variation in prices around the country, with the lowest in Manchester and the highest in London, according to a survey published yesterday.

A brand of beer can vary in price by more than 30p a pint, the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) reported.

"The day of the £1 pint is now with us, and with the Budget looming on the horizon the future looks bleak."

Holt's, of Manchester, wins the survey's value-for-money honours. Its mild sells for 50p a pint, making it Britain's cheapest pint. The dearest pint was

Gale's Prize Old Ale at £1.30. Independent breweries' bitter is much cheaper than that of the big six brewers, with the cheapest at 52p and the dearest at 88p.

Camra's spokesman said: "Courage Best can be as low as 64p a pint in its native Bristol and up to 16p dearer in Surrey and Hampshire. Allied, famed for consistency of original gravities, is not so reliable on price."

"You expect to pay a little more for best bitters, but once again the same offenders are found squeezing that bit extra."

Guide book lists inns that are out

Travellers using a guide book just published by the Automobile Association may have problems finding a room at the inn in the Essex market town of Saffron Walden: of three historic inns listed, one burnt to the ground nearly 15 years ago and another has not opened within memory.

The *Touring Book of Great Britain* says that the Rose and Crown Inn is worthy of special attention with its associations with Shakespeare.

But the sixteenth-century inn was destroyed in the biggest fire the town has known on Christmas night, 1969, when 11 people died.

The book also lists the Sun Inn, famous for its plasterwork. It is now an antique shop.

Mr Cliff Stacey, Saffron Walden's historian and a former town clerk, said: "Anyone hoping for a room or a drink will be in for a surprise. There is a Boots chemist on the site of the Rose and Crown and the Sun Inn has never been open as far back as I can remember and I was born in 1902."

An AA official said: "Unfortunately, with a major reference work of this nature containing thousands of facts, mistakes will creep in."

No disaster

A conference on disasters, scheduled to be held in London at the end of the month, has been cancelled owing to a disastrous lack of support.

Soccer surfeit for princess

Princess Anne's husband, Captain Mark Phillips, watches too much football on television and it does not always meet with her approval, she said last night.

"My husband watches sport all the time, but the only problem is that it is usually the football - it does not always meet with my approval", she said, although they usually agreed on what sport they would watch on television, usually late at night.

She was talking to Gerald Williams on Radio 2 about her job as president of the British

Olympic Association and her own involvement in sport.

Asked if she would prefer to be competing at the Olympics in Los Angeles this summer rather than being there as a spectator, she said: "You only miss something like riding in the Olympics if you have a horse that is any good and I do not at the moment."

Princess Anne won the European Championship in 1971 and said she thought that the win had come a little too soon in her equestrian career.

"It was only three years after I started seriously and people tended to say: 'You have had it now because girls are only successful on one horse so you might as well stop while the going is good'."

In fact, she started riding another horse, came second in the European Championship, and was then picked for the Olympics.

"That was probably the most satisfying thing from my point of view simply because it had taken the time and it was a different horse and required that much more effort."



All fours: Cambridge University students on a sponsored crawl yesterday in aid of the Save the Children Fund. Prince Edward (above right) started the two-mile race from King's Parade to Grantchester (Photograph: John Manning).

Identical twins on demand

By Pearce Wright

Parents could soon choose to have identical twins after successful experiments with animals. Eight pairs of identical lambs have been born this way.

The achievement is described in the current issue of *The Veterinary Record* by Mr S M Willadsen and Dr R A Godke, of the Institute of Animal Physiology, Cambridge.

They explain how fertilized eggs were collected from Jacob ewes six to eight days after being mated to a Welsh Mountain ram.

The choice was made because the lambs would have black and white mottled coats, producing a colour marker to establish they were twins.

Film group to lose levy from cinemas

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The National Film Corporation is to lose its guaranteed support from cinema attendance revenues in a reorganization of government attitudes to the cinema industry.

The long-awaited review being pursued by Mr Kenneth Baker, the minister responsible for that sector at the Department of Trade and Industry, will result in a White Paper before the end of April.

One of the key changes will involve the levy, the tax on cinema admissions which gives the corporation £1.5m a year.

Cinema sources expect that Mr Baker will agree with cinema owners that the levy is an anachronism and will abolish it, telling the corporation to find its finance from private sources and, possibly, Channel 4.

Monopoly of dentures investigated

By Nicholas Timmins

The Office of Fair Trading has begun a preliminary investigation into dentists' monopoly in supplying dentures.

The study may lead in a few weeks' time to a full investigation of whether dental technicians should in future be allowed to supply and fit dentures. At present, only dentists have a legal right to do so.

The office, whose investigation of the opticians' monopoly to supply spectacles led to the Government's present Bill to break that monopoly, would be likely to approach Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, and Mr Alexander Fletcher, the Minister for Consumer Affairs, for government backing.

Sex wart virus may lead to cancer

Doctors are concerned that a skin virus infection causing genital warts, hitherto thought little more than a nuisance, could lead to cervical and other cancers in women.

A leading gynaecologist has called on colleagues to destroy lesions caused by the virus and also to treat the women's sexual partners, to "save a potential epidemic of reproductive cancers in women in the 1990's".

Mr Albert Singer, writing in the latest issue of the *British Medical Journal*, says that warts on the sexual organs could prove fatal to women.

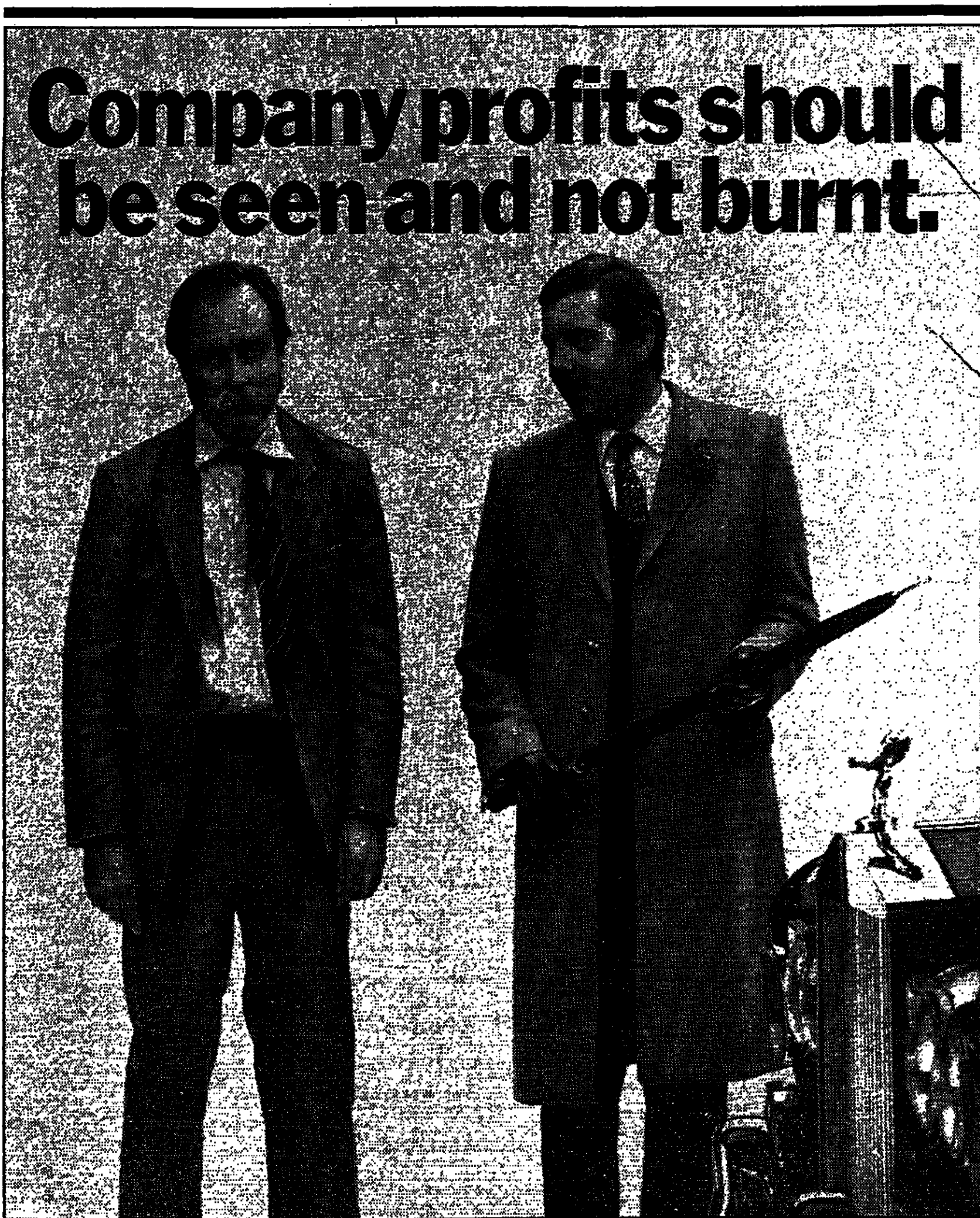
He and a colleague, Dr Patrick Walker, both of the Royal Northern Hospital, London, believe that a virus called HPV 16 which causes genital warts is linked strongly with cancers of the lower reproductive system.

In a recent survey Mr Singer discovered that one third of women who attended a clinic and had been treated for external warts on their sexual organs developed precancerous lesions on their cervix (neck of the uterus) within six months.

Mr Singer said: "I am deeply concerned at the dramatic increase in the incidence of genital or sex warts and fear an epidemic of precancerous growths and cancer in women in the 1990s."

"Evidence is piling up that HPV 16 virus, acting along with other triggers such as possibly herpes virus and accelerated by smoking or maybe use of the contraceptive pill, can lead to cancer of the vagina and cervix."

"It is our practice in this hospital to destroy all warty lesions we find in women's cervixes and treat their husbands at the same time", Mr Singer said.



Glaxo steps up legal fight against importing of cheaper European drugs

By Jeremy Warner

Glaxo, the pharmaceutical group, today intensifies its campaign against "parallel importing" of cheaper European drugs by beginning legal proceedings against two companies for alleged infringement of copyright.

There is a flourishing trade in selling such drugs to the National Health Service for as little as half the price charged by established drug companies.

Injunctions are being sought by Glaxo against Watford-based Sigma Pharmaceuticals and Downhurst, to prevent the alleged use of copies of the packaging that its Allen & Hanbury's offshoot uses for Ventolin anti-asthma inhalers.

Ventolin, widely used by ten million asthmatics in Britain, is the biggest selling prescribed drug and has become an obvious target for drug importers who can buy it in Europe for about two thirds of

Glaxo's British price because of different price regulations and currency fluctuations.

But it is only one of a large number of branded drugs imported in a trade now said to be worth well over £100m a year. Out of 350 drugs available on prescription in Britain, about 270 are available to pharmacists at European prices, which provide a saving of at least 20 per cent.

Although the Government has set in train a review of the trade because of fears about the quality of imports and the confusion that instructions in French, Italian and Spanish can often give rise to, the trade is not illegal and the pharmaceutical industry has been forced to confine its legal proceedings to alleged cases of passing off.

Glaxo is well advanced with legal proceedings against Mr Malcolm Town and the company he runs, Maltown for

alleged infringement of copyright.

It has a writ out against another leading practitioner and exponent of "parallel importing", Mr Stanley Bloom.

Doctors were recently urged in a letter from Glaxo to consider endorsing their prescriptions for ventolin with "UK pack only" to try to stem the growing encroachment of imports.

The company also took a full page advertisement in the Pharmaceutical Journal which said: "It is a great concern to Allen & Hanbury's that by supplying or holding containers in such counterfeit cartons, pharmacists may unwittingly be contravening the regulations under the Medicines Act 1968."

Exponents of "parallel importing" say the trade will benefit the consumer and NHS by exposing excessive profit levels.

Berliners go to battle in English court

By John Withrow

An important legal precedent will be set in the High Court today over the building of a British Army firing range within 200 yards of the Berlin Wall.

The dispute between local residents and the Ministry of Defence has already soured relations and attracted widespread publicity in West Germany over the right of Allied commanders to refuse access to German courts.

It is the first time that West Berliners have sought to take a case beyond local jurisdiction to the home courts of any of the Allied powers. As such, it is being seen as a test case of military authority in West Berlin.

The dispute centres on the building of a firing range at Gatow airfield, close to the Berlin Wall. About 1,000 West Berliners live near by - and are protesting over anticipated noise levels from machine-gun fire and from the danger of stray bullets.

Some residents tried to have the case heard in a West Berlin court but that was refused by the commander of the British sector who can veto any attempt at German jurisdiction over Allied land or personnel.

The local people then attempted to get the Ministry of Defence to put a roof over the range.

That too was rejected.

Last September, lawyers issued a writ in the Chancery Division of the High Court, suing the ministry for nuisance under British law. But Whitehall retaliated by saying that the High Court had no jurisdiction over the case and will today attempt to have the application for a High Court ruling quashed.

"They are trying to stop any claim in the world from hearing the case", Ms Sarah Burton, the solicitor representing the Berliners said.

If the ministry is successful in blocking the hearing, the lawyers are considering an appeal to the House of Lords.

A West German lawyer - in London for the hearing - said the case was unusual because it had united politicians from left and right. Several had called on the West Berlin Government to offer £25m for building a roof over the range.

He pointed out that West German regulations over noise levels are very strict and that if the case were heard in a Berlin court tight restrictions would be placed on the range.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said yesterday that there was no other suitable location for the firing range.



Athlete honoured: The President of the International Olympic Committee, Señor Juan Antonio Samaranch (left), the Mayor of West Berlin, Herr Eberhard Diepgen, and Mrs Ruth Owens at the ceremony on Saturday to name a street in Berlin after Mrs Owens' late husband, Jesse Owens, who won four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Soviet deal with India gives boost to Asian arms race

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Another impetus has been given to the accelerating arms build-up in South Asia with the visit to India, just concluded, of the Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Dmitri Ustinov.

While Pakistan was taking delivery of the second batch of six sophisticated fighter aircraft, the F16s fitted with the latest ALR69 radar from America, the marshal was in Delhi talking about supplying the latest in electronic counter-measures to boost Indian air defence systems.

The talks between Marshal Ustinov and his advisers and the Indian armed forces chiefs are, not unnaturally, being kept secret. But enough is known about the pattern of Indo-Soviet defence cooperation to indicate that the latest in Russian air technology is already on offer through the MIG 29 and MIG 31, and that India is also seeking a more sophisticated

tank with higher horsepower and greater fire-power than the Russian T72, which is about to go into production in Indian factories.

An urgent edge was given to the talks by the presence in Pakistan as they were taking place of the Chinese President, Mr Li Xiannuan. The Chinese have promised the military regime of General Zia ul-Haq further arms support, backing for Pakistan's stand against the Russian occupation of Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union is India's best friend at present, and nervousness in India about the arms build-up in Pakistan - Mr Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister's son, has made public more than once his feeling that war may break out at some time this year - has made Marshal Ustinov's visit doubly important.

He was granted the unusual

honour of a mere defence minister of staying in the presidential palace, the Lutyens-designed former vice regal lodge, and was given a presidential escort.

But at the same time the visit did not run entirely smoothly. Marshal Ustinov cautioned the Indians against acquiring weapons that were too sophisticated. He was said to have felt that too swift a technology jump could raise coordination problems.

The Russians were also disappointed, according to Western diplomatic sources, at failing to get from India forcible condemnation of the development of cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe.

The main success of the talks, however, was in the possibility of developing new naval electronic systems for containing what is seen as the growing threat in the Indian Ocean.

Colombia poll pits son against father

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

A cartoon in the Bogotá *El Espectador* daily recently showed a boy sitting on the lap of his father, a man who is saying: "You look just like your father." The boy is indignant: "I have nothing to do with this government." The man replies immediately: "Just so."

The cartoon had a double irony. The boy portrayed was Señor Diego Betancur Alvarez, 33-year-old son of President Belisario Betancur Cuatrecasas. The two are indeed astonishingly alike. But all similarity ends where politics are concerned. Yesterday's mid-term local elections pitted son against father.

Señor Diego Betancur is a self-styled "Marxist-Leninist-Maoist" and leader of a revolutionary workers' party known by its initials, MOIR, for which he was a candidate in the city council elections in Bogotá yesterday. He campaigned furiously against the "demagoguery" of his father, a maverick Conservative under whose leadership Colombia has tilted leftwards since he took office almost 20 months ago.

But the cartoon's real point was the father's retort, suggesting that President Betancur somehow manages to distance himself from his own government when things go badly, as has increasingly been the case. The charge is rather unfair, but it does reflect the public's perception of him and his administration.

Opinion polls continue to show him to be the most popular president in polling history in this country (the consistently scores 70 per cent approval ratings), with people willing to forgive him for his government's failures.

Even so, his long honeymoon with the press is clearly beginning to sour, because of the Government's apparent impotence to deal with a wave of public-service strikes, violent assassinations and political demonstrations, or to steer the economy out of the doldrums. Yesterday's departmental and municipal elections throughout Colombia looked likely to be less significant as a referendum on his government than as another chapter in the feud between the official and dissident wings of the Liberal Party.



President Betancur: His failures forgiven

Señor Diego Betancur seemed certain to be elected in the poorest working-class areas of southern Bogotá. MOIR mounted a noisy and highly-effective campaign, including comic street-theatre shows, with party activists on stilts, wearing grotesque masks bearing likenesses of President Betancur and other leaders. However, Señor Diego Betancur was not shy about exploiting either his name or his physical likeness to his father.

His father and son, in fact, get on well. At least once a week, sometimes more, Diego helps his father to relax by playing billiards or chess with him. Despite his opponent's revolutionary criticism of the Government, the President has yet to be put off his game, always winning at billiards. The chess usually ends - like their political arguments - in stalemate.

Eagle-eyed protector of rare birds

The biggest of Britain's birds of prey, the Golden Eagle, will be pairing off to nest within the next two weeks. It is an event that signals the beginning of a battle of wits between the Royal Society for the protection of Birds and egg collectors.

Through the network of sympathisers, including local Society officers, gamekeepers, crofters, and even the RAF the society's investigation officer for Scotland, Mr David Dick, is about to begin this year's clandestine operations in support of rare birds.

Mr Dick works "under cover" collating names, descriptions, and car number plates of known nest raiders. From suspicious events at nest-sites to overhead plots in bars, the information is passed to him before being forwarded to the police.

A survey last year of Britain's peregrin population showed that more than 70 nests had been raided to provide eggs and chicks for falconers at £500 a time. An estimated ten eagle nests were also robbed.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 the theft of rare bird eggs such as sparrow, eagle or falcon, carries a £2,000 fine. Last year, the society was involved in almost 30 prosecutions, and in one case two nest robbers in



Mr David Dick on the look out (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

Shetland were fined the full amount.

Mr Dick is one of only three investigation officers: the other two are in England and Wales. Their work, like the location of nest sites, is shrouded in secrecy and support for the society's conservation policy is not universal.

Mr Dick said: "You still get complete idiots who insist on identifying sites in books. They claim everyone has a right to know, but all that happens is people turn up in droves,

causing endless disturbance. "At worst the site ends up on a collector's hit list. Since it is illegal even to have these eggs, the collectors cannot sell them. All they do is put them out from under their beds and show them to each other."

The protection campaign has been largely successful. Although bird numbers are kept secret it is for example estimated that the golden eagle population, which faced extinction in the mid 1960s, has now risen to more than 400 pairs.

MP calls for censoring of prison mail to end

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Prison authorities are intercepting prisoners' letters despite the recent condemnation of censorship of this type of mail by the European Court of Human Rights.

The practice is revealed in correspondence between Miss Harriet Harman, Labour MP for Peckham, and a constituent, who was in Eastchurch prison in Kent.

The prisoner's letter to Miss Harman complaining about his medical treatment was intercepted and a report by the prison medical officer was

enclosed with it, contradicting the complaints.

Miss Harman has told Lord Elton, Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Home Office, that if such reports continue to be put in MPs' letters the practice could constitute a contempt of Parliament.

Lord Elton has admitted that such an enclosure in a letter to an MP would not usually be "appropriate". However, he confirms that medical officers may enclose a statement about the health of an inmate who raises the subject in a letter

Lower wages 'will not reduce unemployment'

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The Government's argument that people must accept lower wages to reduce unemployment is attacked in a report published today by the Low Pay Unit.

Measures to encourage cuts in wages, such as the threatened abolition of wages councils, would create few jobs while increasing poverty and hardship, the report says.

Its author, Mr Henry Newman, a former treasury official and economic adviser to Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party Leader, challenges the foundations of the belief that

people must "price themselves into jobs".

He says wage cuts inevitably reduce demand, which means jobs are lost rather than created. Employers relying on cheap labour have little incentive to invest in more efficient techniques, so productivity suffers. Wage reductions are thus not a route to improved international competitiveness.

Unemployment: Are Wages to Blame? (Low Pay Unit Discussion Paper 4, Poland Street, London W1V 3DG. £1.85).

Argentina's Falklands chief victim of infighting

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

The resignation of an Argentine diplomat charged with handling the Falkland Islands dispute appears to have been the result of bureaucratic infighting, and is unlikely to affect the broad reach of Argentine policy towards the islands.

Señor Hugo Gobbi, a career diplomat who held the key post of Secretary of State for Special Matters, resigned on Friday amid reports of squabbles and personal differences among senior officials at the Foreign Ministry.

The Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, said that Señor Gobbi's resignation had been envisaged last December, when he accepted his post, but newspaper reports over the weekend played up a supposed feud between Señor Gobbi and Señorita Elsa Kelly, another career diplomat of equal rank.

A Foreign Ministry source confirmed the friction between the two officials, but said it was more the result of overlapping functions.

The source said the problem stemmed from a reorganization of the Ministry's internal structure when Señor Caputo took over. It established two equal-ranking posts immediately below that of the Foreign Minister, but failed to make a clear division of their functions.

As Secretary of State for Special Matters, Señor Gobbi directly supervised Argentine negotiations with neighbouring Chile over the Beagle Channel dispute, and looked after efforts to start negotiations with Britain over the Falklands.

Señorita Kelly, whose title is Secretary of State for Foreign Relations, was apparently to have handled all other aspects of foreign policy, but in practice she has also played a role in the Falklands issue, causing friction with Señor Gobbi, the source said.

The chairman of the foreign relations committee, Señor Adolfo Gass, yesterday denied that Señor Gobbi's resignation had thrown the Foreign Ministry into crisis.

Señor Gobbi is to be replaced by Señor Jorge Sabato, a political scientist with no diplomatic experience who is known to be close to the President. It was too early to tell what Señor Sabato's role over the Falklands would be.

Greenland puts seal on withdrawal from EEC

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Greenland's withdrawal from the European community next January is now irrevocable after the 26-seat landsting (Parliament) in Godthåb, the capital of the ice-bound Arctic territory, voted overwhelmingly on Saturday night in favour of a package of exit proposals from the European commission in Brussels.

The formula for Greenland's departure from the EEC, finally hammered out last month after two years of at times tortuous negotiations, allows Community boats to fish an annual catch of up to 125,000 tons in its waters over a five-year period, about the same amount they take now, against yearly payments from the Ten of about £15m.

Greenland is to receive preferential access to EEC markets for its vital fish exports as well as all the benefits of the so-called Overseas Lands and Territories (OLT) Association agreement with the Community.

The local Greenland legislature voted 24 in favour, two against, on the withdrawal package.

Man who dominates Australia

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

As Australia's first Labour Government since 1975 enters its second year in office Mr Bob Hawke dominates the political scene more surely than any Prime Minister since Sir Robert Menzies.

Mr Hawke is clearly relishing his position and the exercise of power. What makes his achievement remarkable is that this has all been achieved in a little more than three years. Mr Hawke entered parliament only in October 1980 after a distinguished career in the union movement.

It is his clear affinity with and ability to relate to ordinary people that is part of the key to Mr Hawke's popularity. That rapport is reciprocal, and is not confined to the Labour Party supporter. More than 40 per cent of Liberal-National voters in the latest opinion poll said that they consider Mr Hawke made a better Prime Minister than Mr Andrew Peacock, the Liberal Party leader.

The Hawke phenomenon, for that is what it is being called in Australia, stems largely from the fact that Mr Hawke is clearly and unashamedly an Australian, complete with sun tan, harsh accent and liberal use of the vernacular.

The Hawke "one of the boys" style was clearly illustrated last



Mr Hawke: Liberal use of the vernacular

week when he appeared on a television Tonight-type show with Paul Hogan, the comedian and well known in Britain for his Foster's lager advertisements. Mr Hawke traded quips with Hogan as if born to it. The two men obviously liked each other and to an outsider it would be hard to pick the former Sydney harbour bridge worker from the Prime Minister.

The Labour Party campaign slogan for the election which swept the party to power was "Bob Hawke bringing Australia together". The sense of common purpose has been a recurrent theme of the Hawke year.

On the same show on which he appeared with Paul Hogan he said he believed that Australia was a happier country than when he took over last year.

Mr Hawke's intervention in stopping the building of the Gordon below Franklin Dam in Tasmania undoubtedly won him the affection of the world's conservationists, if not the wholehearted approval of his own countrymen.

While the prime minister has won mass popular appeal, inside his own party there have been mutterings about his dictatorial style and lack of consultation. While his stock remains so high, however, any unease will remain muted and ineffectual. Nobody is prepared to challenge a leader who is enjoying such unprecedented popularity.

Mr Hawke's success in controlling the party, and the left-wing in particular, has been complete. Only with such control would he have been able to have gone so completely against the wishes of so many members of the party in such key areas as Fast Tumor and uranium.

After his first year in power Mr Hawke's most pressing concern would appear to be when to call an election.

Maths: the haves and the have-nots

The education lottery: 1

After spending a total of nine days sitting in the classrooms of each education authority, my general impression is of a stark contrast between primary schools and secondaries: primary schools encouraging competition and fostering cooperation; secondary schools oriented clearly towards examination.

The best primary lessons were excellent, stimulating, and relaxed. The worst, like the less good in comprehensives, were dull, with teachers falling back on the tired techniques of getting children to draw pictures and colour them in, or copy paragraphs from books.

A worrying feature of primaries was the paternalistic manner in which the teachers there was a great deal of busy learning going on and an almost complete absence of indiscipline.

To answer the question "what are they teaching our children? (and how?)" I joined mathematics, science, and history classes in each area.

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Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, called recently for changes in what schools teach. LUCY HODGES, Our Education Correspondent, visited schools in three local education authorities - Gateshead, Birmingham, and Norfolk - to seek answers to the question: What are they teaching our children?

With mathematics, the big question is to what extent the modern version is taught in schools. Has it made the subject more interesting and accessible? Do children learn better? Are calculators allowed and to what effect? Do primary pupils learn their tables?

In Gateshead I saw both modern and traditional mathematics, the traditional in a relatively new primary school and in a comprehensive, and the modern in a comprehensive run on traditional lines. The nine and ten-year-olds at Whitmore primary were being given a lesson of chalk and talk, with some practical work on the area of a rectangle.

It was the only primary school I saw in the nine days in which children (24 altogether) were seated in rows rather than grouped round little tables. The lesson was clearly and carefully conducted by a Mrs James, an experienced teacher, and the children were keen and attentive.

At Whickham School, the traditional and successful comprehensive the other side of town, all children follow the modern SMP mathematics scheme, published by the Cambridge University Press, as a five-year course up to O level and CSE. In common with the other comprehensives I visited, the children were "set" for mathematics according to their ability.

A second-year group of 32 children (set 2) were being

calculated in general use from a central supply and Mrs Samuel, the acting head, said children enjoyed using them because they could do quite difficult computations.

The Birmingham comprehensive I visited, Primrose Hill School in King's Norton, was openly critical about the mathematics taught in primaries (Yardley Junior is not one of its feeder schools). The physics teacher said his job was made more difficult because children could not do such exercises as cancel fractions, and some children straight from primary school did not know what a half was.

The most interesting secondary mathematics I saw was a Lichen High School in Norfolk where the 12 and 13-year-olds (set 2) were taking part in a practical lesson similar to that done at Yardley Junior in Birmingham. They were making a dice cube out of some thin card and drawing bar charts to show how many times numbers came up when the cube was tossed as a dice.

One of those traditional teachers was hard at work a few miles away in Swaffham, Norfolk, at Hammond's Born School - a comprehensive high school of the merger of a grammar school and a secondary modern.

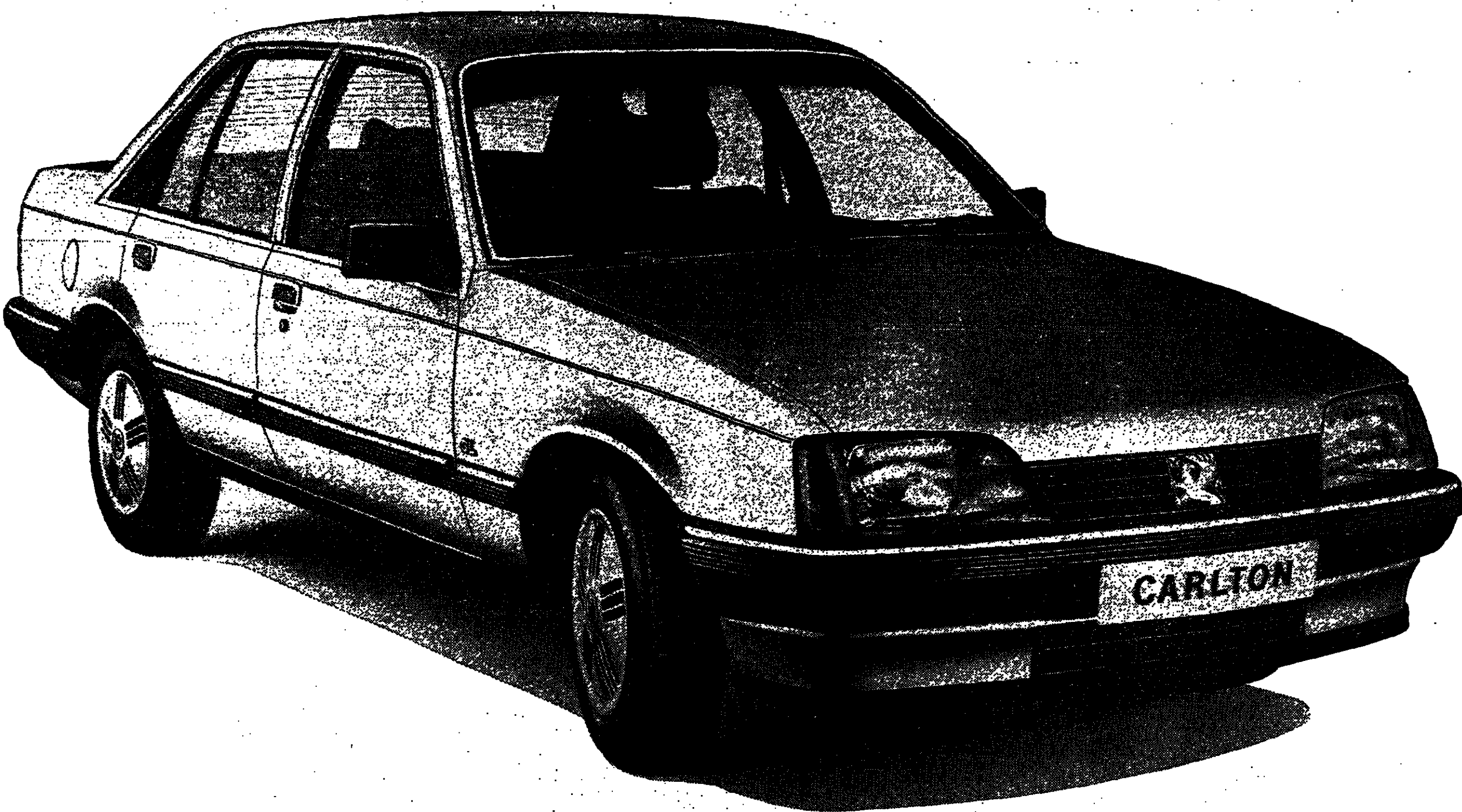
Mr Jinks, sporting tweed jacket, and spectacles, was taking the fourth set (out of eight) of 13 and 14-year-olds for logarithms. When asked what he thought of SMP mathematics he said his reply would be unprintable.

Tomorrow: What science teaching is like. Masters of morality, page 11

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Colombia
poll pits
on against
father

from Geoffrey Marlow
Bogota



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Papandreou attacked for crying wolf too often over crisis in Aegean

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, has come under sharp criticism for his handling of last week's naval incident in the Aegean, which his opponents deplore as a clear case of overkill followed by a humiliating climb down that left the Government's credibility in a shambles.

Any crisis in Greece's relations with Turkey or the United States in the past would have been guaranteed to rally the nation behind the Government in an outburst of patriotic fervour that would sweep all other problems under the carpet. Critics believe Mr Papandreou may have cried wolf once too often.

Nato strategists worried about Greek-Turkish rivalries, have been living in dread of the day when some trigger-happy captain or fighter pilot on either side might start a shooting war in the Aegean.

This was precisely what is supposed to have happened last Thursday. Greece protested that five Turkish destroyers, on gunnery practice in the northern Aegean, had fired at the Greek destroyer Panthir which was discreetly watching the manoeuvres from inside Greek territorial waters.

The Greek reaction was

prompt. The armed forces were alerted, the Ambassador to Turkey recalled. Nato was notified, and the Americans were told to look at the consequences of their pampering Turkey with lavish military aid.

What impressed watchers of the Greek scene this time is that despite the warlike atmosphere worked up in pro-government press banner headlines, there was no anxiety among the public.

The Government backed down less than 24 hours later, accepting the Turkish Government's assurance that its ships had been firing anti-aircraft shells that burst in the air and posed no danger to surface ships. Greek fishermen said later they had been surprised to see the Panthir so close to the Turkish fleet.

Mr Evangelos Averoff, leader of the conservative opposition party, the new democracy, while assuring the Government of his party's unstinted support in any national emergency, for the first time accused it of allowing its judgment to be influenced by domestic considerations.

Like him, many Greeks now believe that the Government's

over-reaction had three principal objectives:

● First, to divert public attention from the recent Socialist-Communist defeat in the Athens Bar Association elections.

● Secondly, to end the spate of unnerving labour strikes by eliciting the patriotism of the strikers, as had happened so often before.

● Thirdly, to focus on Turkish aggressiveness while the United States Congress is considering military aid to Greece and Turkey.

The ploy backfired, mainly because President Karamanlis, who was informed of the incident only after the Government had decided to react, is said to have put his foot down when he saw the Prime Minister the next morning.

It is perhaps significant that the Greek official in charge of the Foreign Ministry's department handling relations with Turkey, heard of the affair on television news six hours after the incident.

The search for a scapegoat has already begun. A pro-government Sunday newspaper demanded dismissal of Mr Yiannis Kapsis, the Foreign Under-Secretary, for giving the Prime Minister bad advice.



The stage and the leading men: Lausanne Beau Rivage hotel and (from the top) veteran Lebanese Christian leader Mr Camille Chamoun, Mr Nabih Berri of the Shia Muslim Amal and President Gemayel's father, Mr Pierre Gemayel.

Kohl tries to forestall breakdown in Brussels

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl called together his ministers on Friday in advance of today's meeting of European Community Foreign Ministers to see what more can be done to avert a breakdown of the Brussels summit.

Herr Kohl has already said a failure would be "catastrophic". He has been active in trying to reconcile differences between Germany's partners, and can be expected to try even harder, the more serious the crisis looks.

But the fact is the Germans are in a difficult position, torn between conflicting national interests. On the one hand they do agree with Britain that agricultural spending must be cut, and that Britain and Germany cannot indefinitely finance the rest of the community. On the other hand they will not do anything to antagonize France, believing Franco-German agreement to be the bedrock on which all Germany's postwar policies rest and on which any future development of the Community must be built.

Where Bonn can help, it will, despite the misgivings of Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the Finance Minister who has been trying to keep a tight rein on spending. Chancellor Kohl and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, are eager to settle a point of dispute with France: the complicated system of cross-border levies on French agricultural exports to Germany. For Paris these monetary compensations amounts (MCA) are an important grievance, and Bonn has now apparently agreed to a change, at the expense of its own farmers and at considerable financial sacrifice.

But Bonn knows the main issues at Brussels are not MCAs but the Community's impending bankruptcy and Britain's insistence on curbing agricultural spending and setting, once and for all, its budgetary contributions before even considering an increase in Community resources.

Here Bonn is in a dilemma. It would like to change the illogical flow of EEC funds that principally benefit rich countries such as Holland and Denmark. It accepts that agricultural spending, already over 60 per cent of the Community budget, cannot go on rising indefinitely while leaving little, if any, money to tackle serious Community issues such as unemployment and regional development. Bonn believes the Stuttgart package still to be the only way forward, and it adds to this its insistence, for political reasons, on seeing the swift entry of Spain and Portugal into the EEC. But how can Germany persuade its partners to agree?

It is hard to know how Bonn will react if Mrs Thatcher insists on getting her money back and blocking an increase in EEC resources. It depends what she is offering. Bonn knows she is not bluffing, but does expect her too to compromise. A rejection of a paltry sum would be seen as less unreasonable than a rejection of anything but the full claim.

Bonn itself would be prepared to go a long way in paying for a settlement, despite its objections in principle of contributing to the British rebate when West Germany itself is a larger net contributor to the Community, but this is not the same burning issue here as in Britain. Germany, richer and with a bigger economy, is relatively more able to afford the sum. Its industry has benefited considerably more from Community membership than Britain's, and politically the Germans are more committed to Europe and see their own national influence and interests more closely linked to membership than Britain does.



Geoffrey Smith

Stockholm
When I first came to Stockholm nearly 20 years ago, I was struck, as any British visitor must have been, by the nature of the historic Swedish compromise. Here was a country in which the Social Democrats had ruled for more than 30 years without apparently upsetting anyone.

Bankers and big businessmen would explain that, while they did not vote for the party, they did not really want to change the Government. They knew that Social Democratic ministers would take account of their views: each side would listen to the other to make the system work.

Over the years, this instinct for compromise has weakened so that now I find a greater polarisation of opinion than on any previous visit. This trend began at the end of the 1960s, at about the time that Mr Olof Palme became leader of the party and Prime Minister.

He was a more abrasive and contentious figure than his predecessor, Mr Tage Erlander, and has had a considerable effect upon the style of Swedish politics, but the shift in attitudes cannot be ascribed simply to a change of personalities.

This was a time, after the events of 1968, when more radical winds were blowing in left-wing parties throughout Western Europe. On the other side of politics there was an increasing restiveness with the tax burdens and restrictions of social democracy, a growing feeling that it was time for a change.

From 1973 to 1976 there was an equal division of seats in Parliament between the socialist and non-socialist parties, which brought a period of enforced compromise. Then from 1976 to 1982 there were a succession of non-socialist governments which are generally regarded as not having been successful.

The relative failure of the political alternative has brought increasing frustration among non-socialists and a certain over-confidence among Social Democrats. For many years the largest of the three non-socialist parties - the Centre Party, the Liberals and the Conservatives - was the Centre Party, which did not offer a sharp ideological contrast to the Social Democrats.

Aggressive style

Now the strongest non-socialist party is the Conservative party and whose new leader, Mr Ulf Adelsohn, has a more aggressive style than the Centre Party leader and former Prime Minister, Mr Thorbjörn Fälldin.

The Liberals have a new leader, Mr Bertil Westerberg, who is much further from the Social Democrats than his predecessor.

The employers' confederation, SAF, which used to concentrate almost exclusively on negotiation, has been adopting a more political role, making much larger profits and there is a greater sense of self-confidence among the employers. So there is a sharper profile among the non-socialists, both in and out of Parliament.

This trend has been stimulated by the more radical approach of the Social Democrats over the years. Since their return to office in 1982 they have, it is true, followed their immediate large devaluation of the krona by restraining trade union wage demands.

But they have also responded to union pressure by introducing wage earner funds, which are designed to purchase a share in the ownership of industry on behalf of employees through the proceeds of an excess profit tax, and a payroll tax.

The beginning is modest, but the principle is highly contentious. Last October a remarkable large demonstration by 100,000, came out in Stockholm to protest against the scheme.

The non-socialist parties are all committed to abolish it if they win a majority at the next election in 1985. There may be something surprising in this, but it is a promise, and it is contrary to Swedish political custom for one parliament simply to reverse the work of its predecessor.

Even in the present climate of national anxiety over yet submarines, it has not yet proved possible to get agreement between the parties on higher defence spending.

These are all signs of how the old order has changed. No longer do Swedish politicians seek to agree with each other whenever they decently can.

Grim faces after Biscay talks

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

As a result of a weekend meeting here between the two Prime Ministers, Spain and France are to take steps to prevent a repetition of the shooting incident last week, in which a French naval patrol vessel fired on Spanish trawlers in the Bay of Biscay, injuring six crew members.

Although Señor Felipe Gonzalez and M Pierre Mauroy strove to emphasize that the incident must not permanently damage relations between the two countries, the two leaders met the press separately after they emerged, looking grim, from a three-hour lunch on Saturday.

No Spanish officials saw M Mauroy off at the airport and judging that they had gauged the average Spaniard's sense of outrage over the French action better than the Government, the right-wing opposition staged a street demonstration against M Mauroy's presence in Madrid.

For the first time Señor Gonzalez warned Spain's fishermen that his Government would in future take action if

they were proved to be fishing without EEC licences - though he pleaded for understanding of the difficulties involved in changing fishermen's traditional habits.

This is a sensitive moment, but Spain wants to have the regulations respected, he said, referring to the fishing agreement that Madrid has signed with the EEC countries.

French and Spanish fisheries authorities, accompanied by their deep sea fleet owners, will meet for talks aimed at devising ways to prevent further problems in French or EEC waters, it was agreed.

Doubts exist, however, about the adequacy of enforcement machinery. Señor Gonzalez disclosed that Madrid received early last month a warning from France that it was about to adopt a tougher attitude towards those caught without licences. This had been passed on immediately, he said, to the deep sea fleet owners in the Basque country and Galicia.

The warning coincided with the Basque general election campaign, and the Basque

Beirut hospital shelled

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Militiamen exchanged machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades across the green line that divides Muslim west Beirut from the Christian east side yesterday, but sporadic thunderstorms put a damper on the widespread fighting of the day before.

Twenty people were killed and more than 85 wounded on Saturday and early yesterday as fighting along the green line expanded to shelling exchanged between Muslim and Christian suburbs south and east of the city, and to sporadic artillery duels in the central mountains above the capital.

The fighting intensified as Lebanese leaders left Beirut and Damascus, the Syrian capital, for a "national reconciliation conference" scheduled to begin today in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Among those killed in weekend fighting were seven people,

including several children, who were awaiting treatment at the Al-Nakaba Center medical clinic in the Haret Hreik neighbourhood south of Beirut. Twenty-two people were injured at the clinic when it was hit by a shell.

A mile to the north-west of the clinic, "Shia Muslim doctors evacuated the patients of the field hospital, which had been left behind by the Italian contingent of the multinational force, when it came under shelling. The hospital serves the Sabra and Chatilla Palestinian refugee camps and residential areas.

The weekend fighting was the worst in Lebanon since the Gemayel Government decided last Monday to scrap the troop withdrawal agreement, that Lebanon had negotiated with Israel under US sponsorship.

Cancellation of the agreement had been demanded by Syria and Syrian-backed Lebanese opposition leaders as a precondition for reconvening the peace talks that ended inconclusively in Geneva last November.

Mounting losses spur Gulf peace efforts

By Hishar Teimourian

Thousands of Iraqi and Iranian troops were engaged in fierce fighting throughout the weekend in the marshlands of southern Iraq for possession of the oil rich Majnoon island, captured by Iran at the beginning of the offensive it launched on February 22.

Military communiques in Tehran and Baghdad said the Iraqi forces had made significant gains on the other hand, claimed that possession of the island was not one of its immediate aims.

Dismissing Iranian claims as absurd, Iraq's regional commander, General Maher Abdel-Rasheed, told a group of French reporters that the island, near the Iranian border, was "militarily unimportant". He added nevertheless that fighting for the island over the past four days had been "merciless".

He said that Iraqi tanks had penetrated Iranian defences at several points by yesterday afternoon.

"The advance was made despite unsuccessful attempts by the occupying forces to breach a network of dikes around the island to swamp the Iraqi troops and tanks", General Rasheed said.

Military sources in the Iraqi port of Basra said that Iran had been able to reinforce its troops on Majnoon by parachute and by boat.

Iran again accused Iraq of using blistering and suffocating chemical agents on Iranian troop concentrations, causing more than 400 new casualties on Majnoon.

Some accounts, the Iraqis managed to prevent the tide of the sea from flooding the island.

But Canadian sources themselves in their country hard to come to terms with, its size, first of all, is a matter of wonder. 3.8 million square miles, more than 1,000 miles from Atlantic to Pacific, stretching over six time zones, Ontario alone is larger than Britain, France and West Germany combined; Quebec is seven times larger than Britain.

Size and history have created difficulties in the development of a truly national focus in Canada. The Americans had revolution, civil war and the modern struggle for civil rights in making their society. Canadians have not had these

Israel denies preparing for Lebanon pullback

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Mr Dan Meridor, the Cabinet spokesman, said yesterday that the Israeli Government was not at this time contemplating a pull-back in southern Lebanon; it considered the Awaril line to be "the best deployment" at this time.

He confirmed, however, that Israel was seeking to organize other forces to take over security tasks. He said the Security authorities would submit the proposals to the Cabinet when they were ready.

He declined to speculate when the pull-back would be.

Mr Meridor emphasized that a reappraisal of the deployment would not be influenced by the Lebanese Government's abrogation of its agreement with Israel, but solely by its own security concerns.

The Israeli media has been reporting that the armed forces were completing plans for a new Israeli line on the Mediterranean flank and a reduction of Israeli forces. It was speculated that Mr Brian Urquhart, the permanent UN Under-Secretary

General, might discuss a role for UN forces during his tour of the Middle East this week.

The Cabinet discussed transferring responsibility at the Awaril river border crossing from military to civilian authorities. Mr Meridor said that was an internal Israeli matter which had nothing to do with Israel's relationship with Lebanon.

Unusually, the media was invited to attend the first part of yesterday's Cabinet meeting, to hear Mr Shamir, the Prime Minister, inaugurate "Soviet Jewry Solidarity Week". He appealed to freedom-lovers everywhere to support the rights of Soviet Jews to live in the place of their choice.

● Rabbi held: The arrest of a rabbi who allegedly led members of his flock in a raid on a Petah Tikvah cafe which was open for business on the Sabbath, heightened coalition problems for the Shamir Government.

Trevor Fishlock in Canada

Canada's enduring enigma

Canadians smiled ruefully recently when they heard that a German magazine had portrayed their country as a frozen waste where visitors stand a good chance of being eaten by wolves. Some ideas have not changed much, it seems, since 1913, when Kaiser Wilhelm remarked of Canada that "to allow people to go to that sub-arctic country is inhuman".

The people of the second largest country in the world, after the Soviet Union, know that their land is in many minds a terra incognita - not least in the minds of the 49th neighbours below the 49th parallel. Canada is a white space on many American maps, its history, geography and politics a blank.

But Canadians themselves in their country hard to come to terms with, its size, first of all, is a matter of wonder. 3.8 million square miles, more than 1,000 miles from Atlantic to Pacific, stretching over six time zones, Ontario alone is larger than Britain, France and West Germany combined; Quebec is seven times larger than Britain.

Size and history have created difficulties in the development of a truly national focus in Canada. The Americans had revolution, civil war and the modern struggle for civil rights in making their society. Canadians have not had these



violent and defining crucibles. They have, jawed, not warred, and have developed by a long process of chaffing and argument.

Strung out across the continent, in ten provinces and two territories, Canadians are not a homogeneous society. There is a strong sense of regional difference and identity.

The experience and outlook of the oil-and-grain-rich Alberta is strikingly different from those of the tight-belted, Celtic-accented fishermen of Newfoundland. The British Columbia lives in a Pacific-oriented, southward-looking young province, the Nova Scotians in a long-settled Atlantic one. The Quebecers have a different language, religion and politics.

The Liberals have been in power for 21 years, but they are centrist. Canadians' almost extinct west of Winnipeg.

All the provinces are suspicious of Ottawa, the Federal Government. They grumble

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Webster loses snap poll in Anguilla

The Valley, Anguilla (Reuters) Chief Minister Ronald Webster, whose rebellion 17 years ago prompted a British invasion, has been voted out of office in snap elections in this tiny Caribbean colony.

The opposition Anguilla National Alliance of Mr Emilio Gumbs won 30 per cent of the vote against 39 per cent for the Anguilla People's Party, Mr Webster's party.

Mr Webster said the elections were a "great day for Anguilla".

He said the party's defeat was a "great day for Anguilla".

He said the party's defeat was a "great day for Anguilla".

Canada's enduring enigma

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Canada's enduring enigma

Canadians smiled ruefully recently when they heard that a German magazine had portrayed their country as a frozen waste where visitors stand a good chance of being eaten by wolves. Some ideas have not changed much, it seems, since 1913, when Kaiser Wilhelm remarked of Canada that "to allow people to go to that sub-arctic country is inhuman".

The people of the second largest country in the world, after the Soviet Union, know that their land is in many minds a terra incognita - not least in the minds of the 49th neighbours below the 49th parallel. Canada is a white space on many American maps, its history, geography and politics a blank.

But Canadians themselves in their country hard to come to terms with, its size, first of all, is a matter of wonder. 3.8 million square miles, more than 1,000 miles from Atlantic to Pacific, stretching over six time zones, Ontario alone is larger than Britain, France and West Germany combined; Quebec is seven times larger than Britain.

Size and history have created difficulties in the development of a truly national focus in Canada. The Americans had revolution, civil war and the modern struggle for civil rights in making their society. Canadians have not had these

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

No such narrowing of the gap was discerned in Massachusetts, however, where the poll shows Senator Hart leading by 53 per cent. The same poll has Mr Mondale ahead in Alabama, which also holds its primary tomorrow. Both polls showed the three other candidates trailing far behind.

From Christopher Thomas, Milledgeville, Georgia

Mr Jackson is the wild card in tomorrow's three key Southern primaries - Florida, Georgia and Alabama. There are no precedents because Ebenezer Baptist Church, and thousands like it, have never voted before.



**From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg**

Pretoria offers to talk with Swapo

The South African Broadcasting Corporation, which works closely with the Government, reports that five other black African heads of state or

believed Mr Botha was trying hard "to follow his honest mind in a sea of racial landmines".

Dr Kaunda said: "At this moment he has everything firmly in his two hands to deliver Namibia to the people of Namibia and to South Africa as an independent state."

Mr Tambo: Briefed by President Machel.

It is not just the possible closure or reduced accessibility of the ANC's sanctuaries and infiltration routes in countries bordering South Africa that is worrying Mr Tambo and his colleagues. It is also the

More recently, Mr Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique's Foreign Minister, was quoted as saying that, if it wanted to retain a presence in Mozambique, the ANC must accept the principle of "peaceful negotiation" with South Africa.

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Chancery Division

Law Report March 12 1984

Queen's Bench Division

When specified use of land ceases

In re Rowhook Mission Hall, Horsham
Chaning-Pearce and Others v Morris and Another
In re Ladypool Road Old National School, Birmingham
Birmingham Diocesan Board of Finance v Russell and Others
Before Mr Justice Nourse
[Judgment delivered March 11]

In the first case, where land was conveyed to trustees under section 2 of the School Sites Act 1841 and the proviso for reverter on cessation of the purposes specified took effect prior to the 1925 property legislation, it was clear that the trustees' determinable fee simple, which was then a legal estate, determined, and the reverter's possibility of reverter automatically and simultaneously matured into a fee simple absolute.

In the second case, where the proviso for reverter took effect subsequent to the 1925 legislation, although by virtue of section 1(1) of the Law of Property Act 1925 a determinable fee simple could now only exist as an equitable interest, under the provisions of section 7(1) of the 1925 Act a fee simple vested in the trustees and the fee simple absolute vested in the trustees and he was therefore, not a person who needed to require a vesting order under the provisions of section 3(3) of the 1925 Act.

Thus in both cases time had run in favour of the trustees and the reverter's title was barred. Mr Justice Nourse so held in the Chancery Division in respect of two originating summonses brought by the plaintiff trustees against the defendant revertees under the 1841 Act, declaring that in the first case the property at all times since the expiration of the limitation period had been vested in the trustees free from any trust in favour of the revertees and that in the second case compensation for compulsory purchase was payable to the trustees.

Mr Edward Nugee, QC and Mr Charles Turnbull for the Rev Chaning-Pearce and the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Finance; Mr Timothy Jennings for Mrs Morris; Mr Spencer G. Maurice for Mr Russell; Mr Peter Crampin for the Attorney General.

MR JUSTICE NOURSE said that the question in both cases was whether, on a reverter under section 2 of the School Sites Act 1841, time began to run in favour of the trustees in whom the land was vested prior to the expiration of its term for the purposes specified in the grant or whether it became held in trust for the reverter so that time did not run.

The position might be different depending on whether reverter took place before or after the 1925 property legislation came into force on January 1, 1926.

It was clear that if time ran in favour of the trustees they continued to use it for the purposes for which it was granted, being specific charitable purposes which had necessarily failed: see *In re Ingleton Charity* ([1956] Ch 585).

If time did run many schemes for the administration of land or its proceeds of sale *cy-près* had been established in the past without the consent of the reverter who was often unascertainable.

But in 1979 in *In re Clayton's Deed Poll* ([1980] Ch 99) where reverter had taken place after 1925, Mr Justice Whitford decided that the land had become held in trust for the reverter which resulted in the calling into question of titles assumed to have been acquired by adverse possession.

It was understood that it had since been decided not to establish any new schemes where reverter took place before 1926 except perhaps with the consent of the reverter.

Doubts cast upon past transactions and substantial stalemate in respect of new schemes led to the present proceedings being brought as test cases, the first where reverter took place before 1926 and the second where it occurred after 1925.

In *In re Rowhook Mission Hall* the conveyance was made under the 1841 Act on March 11, 1874. The proviso for reverter took effect in 1904 when the school closed down and so far as was material the originating summons asked whether the property comprised in the 1874 conveyance was vested in the plaintiffs (a) upon the trusts declared in the conveyance or (b) upon trust for the reverter.

The combined effect of the conveyance and section 2 of the 1841 Act vested in the trustees a fee simple determinable on the land ceasing to be used for the purposes mentioned in the Act as were specified in the conveyance; see *AG v Shadwell* ([1910] 1 Ch 92).

Before 1926, such a fee simple was capable of existing as a legal estate

as in the present case. The grantor, that is, the reverter, retained a possibility of reverter.

On cessation of the user the trustees' fee simple determined and the possibility of reverter matured into a fee simple absolute simultaneously and automatically; see *Challis's Law of Real Property* 3rd ed (1911) pp76, 82-83 and 251 *et seq*, and *Meagley and Wade The Law of Real Property* 4th ed (1975) pp74-77.

Thus the reverter became entitled to a legal estate in fee simple absolute in the property, that estate carrying the right to possession of the property as against the trustees. If time then began to run against the reverter it was accepted that the title was finally barred by 1902.

Mr Jennings' arguments that time did not run were not sustained in respect of section 8 of the Trustee Act 1888 and section 19(1) of the Limitation Act 1939: see also *Reverend v Hildon* ([1984] Ch 509) and *In re Howland* ([1984] Ch 767), although it was inadvisable that time should run in favour of a trustee in possession of the property as against his beneficiaries.

The submission founded because the trustees were never trustees for the reverter. The only effect of section 19(1) was that the trustees were to further the purposes specified. On cessation of user there could be no implication of a trust for the reverter which would run contrary to the express proviso for reverter.

Thus the property had been at all times vested in the trustees free from any trust in favour of the revertees whose title was barred.

In *In re Ladypool Road Old National School* the conveyance was made under the 1841 Act on September 30, 1856. The proviso for reverter took effect on August 31, 1938 when the school was closed.

The proceedings were commenced in February 1983 and so far as was material the originating summons asked whether compensation in respect of compulsory purchase of the premises was payable to (a) the plaintiff or (b) the reverter.

Immediately before January 1, 1926 the legal position was the same as in the *Rowhook* case but on January 1, 1926 by virtue of section 1(1) of the Law of Property Act 1925 the trustees' determinable fee simple would only have subsisted as an equitable interest but for the provisions of section 7(1) of the 1925 Act which enabled the trustees' determinable fee simple to continue to subsist as an estate at law and the reverter retained the possibility of reverter.

It was accepted that if time began to run against the reverter, his title was finally barred on August 9, 1938.

Mr Maurice submitted that time did not run then and had never run against the revertees, relying on the provision in section 3(3) of the 1925 Act which, far as material made two points clear: (1) a person might become entitled to require a legal estate to be vested in him by reason of a statutory right of reverter, for example, under section 2 of the 1841 Act; (2) a person could not be said to become entitled to require a legal estate to be vested in him if it vested in him automatically.

Mr Nugee submitted that section 7(1) not only preserved the trustees' determinable fee simple as a legal estate but also by the words "and remains liable to be divested as if this Act had not been passed" retained the effect of the proviso for reverter. He also relied on section 7(3).

Either way, he submitted that the possibility of reverter was unaffected by the 1925 Act and continued to mature into a simple fee absolute on the determination of the determinable fee.

On the closure of the school on August 31, 1938 the fee simple absolute vested automatically in the reverter who was therefore not a person who "becomes entitled to require a legal estate to be vested in him". Accordingly whatever other application section 3(3) might have had it had none to this or any similar case.

Mr Maurice while accepting that the possibility of reverter matured into a legal fee simple absolute but stopped short at an absolute equitable interest in the land, in which case the reverter was a person who "becomes entitled to require a legal estate to be vested in him" giving full effect to the material provisions of section 3(3).

Such a proposition meant that a new fee simple became vested in the trustees on trust for the reverter which his Lordship found astounding, since there was no provision to that effect. Mr Maurice's generalizations that Mr Nugee's arguments rendered section 3(3) superfluous and that the role of trustees as trustees for the revertees were consistent with that of charitable trustees who held property on resulting trust for the grantor (see *In re Cooper's Conveyance Trust* ([1956] WLR 1096)) were not capable of filling what Mr Maurice

argued was a fundamental omission in the specific provisions of the 1925 Act.

In his Lordship's judgment such arguments were just a puff of smoke, and he accepted Mr Nugee's submissions as to the first part of section 7(1) and section 3(3).

The words "liable to be divested" in section 7(1) connoted more readily than the words "liable to determine" in section 7(2) the shifting of a fee simple absolute from one hand to another, thus supporting the view that the fee simple absolute vested in the reverter and opposed the notion that it vested in the trustees.

The words "as if this Act had not been passed" in section 7(1) could not be ignored, since if the 1925 Act had not been passed section 3(3) would not have been enacted and the position would have been no different to the *Rowhook* case.

It was possible to argue that the effect of the general considerations upon which Mr Maurice relied combined with section 3(3) converted the trustees' estate into an equitable determinable fee simple on January 1, 1926.

The land would then have become settled land for the purposes of the Settled Land Act 1925 and such a result would have negated the effect of section 7(1). Since however Mr Maurice accepted that section 7(1) did prevent the land from being settled land there was no need to investigate this problem further; see *Tithe Redemption Commission v Runcom UDC* ([1954] Ch 383).

His Lordship analysed the legislative history of sections 3(3) and 7(1) concluding in respect of section 3(3) that it was possible, and no criticism of him at all, that the draftsman either overlooked or misunderstood the fact the words "by reason of a statutory right of reverter" were no longer appropriate.

With regard to Mr Nugee's reliance on section 7(3) of the 1925

Act it was unnecessary for his Lordship to decide the difficult question as to whether an Act specifically mentioned in section 7(1) could have been intended to be included in section 7(3).

With regard to the authorities before the decision in *In re Clayton's Deed Poll* only two seemed to be in point, the decisions of Mr Justice Harman in *In re Charvase's Conveyance* (April 14, 1954, unreported) and of Mr Justice Danckwerts in *In re Ingleton Charity* where in each case a reverter under the 1841 Act had taken place after 1925.

In both cases it was assumed that the fee simple absolute had vested in the reverter and that time had begun to run against him but section 3(3) was not referred to in either.

In *In re Charvase's Conveyance* was of greater value and his Lordship regarded it as strong persuasive authority in favour of the conclusions he had so far reached, and the decision in *In re Clayton's Deed Poll* was not one he needed to follow since Mr Justice Whitford had not had the benefit of arguments heard in the present case particularly in favour of the predominance of section 7(1), nor was he referred to the legislative history of the two provisions and to *In re Charvase's Conveyance*.

His Lordship was certain that had Mr Justice Whitford heard those arguments he would have arrived at the opposite conclusion.

His Lordship declared that the compensation in respect of compulsory purchase of the premises was payable to the trustees.

Solicitors: Lee Bolton & Lee for FitzHugh Eggar & Pori, Brighton; Rawlinson & Butler, Horsham; Treasury Solicitor.

Lee Bolton & Lee for Lee Crowder & Co, Birmingham; Samuel Tomlin & Co for Evershed & Tomkinson, Birmingham; Treasury Solicitor.

Effect of deportation on community

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Bakhtaur Singh
Before Mr Justice Hodgson
[Judgment delivered March 2]

In determining whether to allow an appeal under section 15(1)(a) of the Immigration Act 1971 against the decision of the Secretary of State for the Home Department to deport an immigrant who had remained in the United Kingdom without authorization, an adjudicator had to balance the public interest against any compassionate circumstances of the case and to take full account of every relevant factor known to him: see section 19(1)(a)(ii) of the 1971 Act and paragraphs 154, 156 and 158 of the Statement of Changes in Immigration Control 1982 (HC 666) and for that purpose, the adjudicator was entitled to take into account either as a compassionate circumstance, or as a relevant factor, the effect which the deportation would have upon the community.

Mr Justice Hodgson, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment granting Mr Bakhtaur Singh's application to quash by way of judicial review, (a) the decision of an adjudicator, Mr D. Parkes, who on May 3, 1983, dismissed the applicant's appeal against the Home Secretary's decision to deport him; and (b) the subsequent decision of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal refusing him leave to appeal against the adjudicator's decision.

Miss Frances Webber for the applicant; Mr Simon D. Brown for the tribunal.

MR JUSTICE HODGSON said that the applicant, a 33-year-old Indian citizen, was a Sikh priest and a talented musician and music teacher. He had unfortunately been crippled since his birth.

On his arrival in the United Kingdom as a member of a folk

music group, the applicant had obtained limited leave (later extended) to enter as a visitor, but after his leave had expired, he had remained in the country without authorization.

A decision to deport the applicant was made by the secretary of state under section 3(5)(a) of the Immigration Act 1971. The applicant appealed to an adjudicator against the decision under section 15(1)(a) of the 1971 Act.

The adjudicator was sympathetic to the applicant's case. He found that the applicant was an accomplished musician who had appeared for charity at a number of important musical festivals; that he had played many different cultural and religious bodies and was a highly respected member of the Sikh community.

But the adjudicator considered himself bound by the decision of Mr Justice Forbes in *Re Sohal* ([1981] Imm A.R. 201) to say that the applicant's relationship with the Sikh community in the United Kingdom was not a factor relating to the welfare of the applicant himself and was, accordingly, not a compassionate circumstance which he was entitled to take into account

for the purpose of paragraph 154 of the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules 1982 (HC 666), and which he could weigh in the applicant's favour in deciding whether a deportation order should be made. He further found that on the authority of *Sohal* the effect of the deportation order on the community was not a matter justiciable by him.

The decision of the secretary of state to deport the applicant involved the exercise of a discretion, and accordingly, by section 19(1)(a)(ii) of the 1971 Act, the adjudicator was obliged to allow the appeal if he decided that the discretion should have been differently exercised. In deciding how the discretion should have been exercised, he had to have regard to the immigration rules, and, in particular, to paragraphs 154, 156 and 158 of HC 666.

Paragraph 154 provided that in considering the merits of a case the public interest was to be balanced against any compassionate circumstances. Paragraph 158 provided that deportation would normally be the proper course where an immigrant had remained without authorization but that full account

had to be taken of all the circumstances, including those matters referred to in paragraph 156, namely, every relevant factor known to him, including, *inter alia*, the applicant's personal history and his domestic circumstances.

For those purposes, "public interest" was not restricted to the maintenance of immigration control as Mr Brown had suggested; "compassionate circumstances" were not restricted to matters of direct personal relevance to the applicant, but might include the wishes and interests of the Sikh community; and "known relevant factors" might properly include the effect which a deportation order would have upon the community.

His Lordship accordingly found himself in disagreement with Mr Justice Forbes in *Sohal*'s case and could not follow that decision. In the circumstances the adjudicator had failed to take relevant matters into account and the tribunal had wrongly refused the applicant leave to appeal. The tribunal's decision would, accordingly, be quashed and an order would be made requiring them to hear the appeal.

Solicitors: Laxmans, Brixton; Treasury Solicitor.

Guidelines are not rules of law

Linfoam (Manchester) Ltd v Fletcher

When allowing an employer's appeal from a finding of unfair dismissal the Employment Appeal Tribunal reminded industrial tribunals on March 5 that the guidelines given by Mr Justice Arnold in *British Home Stores Ltd v Burchell* ([1980] ICR 303, 304) were intended to ensure that tribunals did not leave out of account any consideration which ought to weigh with them when judging the reasonableness of an employer's

decision to dismiss under section 57(3) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, as amended, and did not lay down a rule of law.

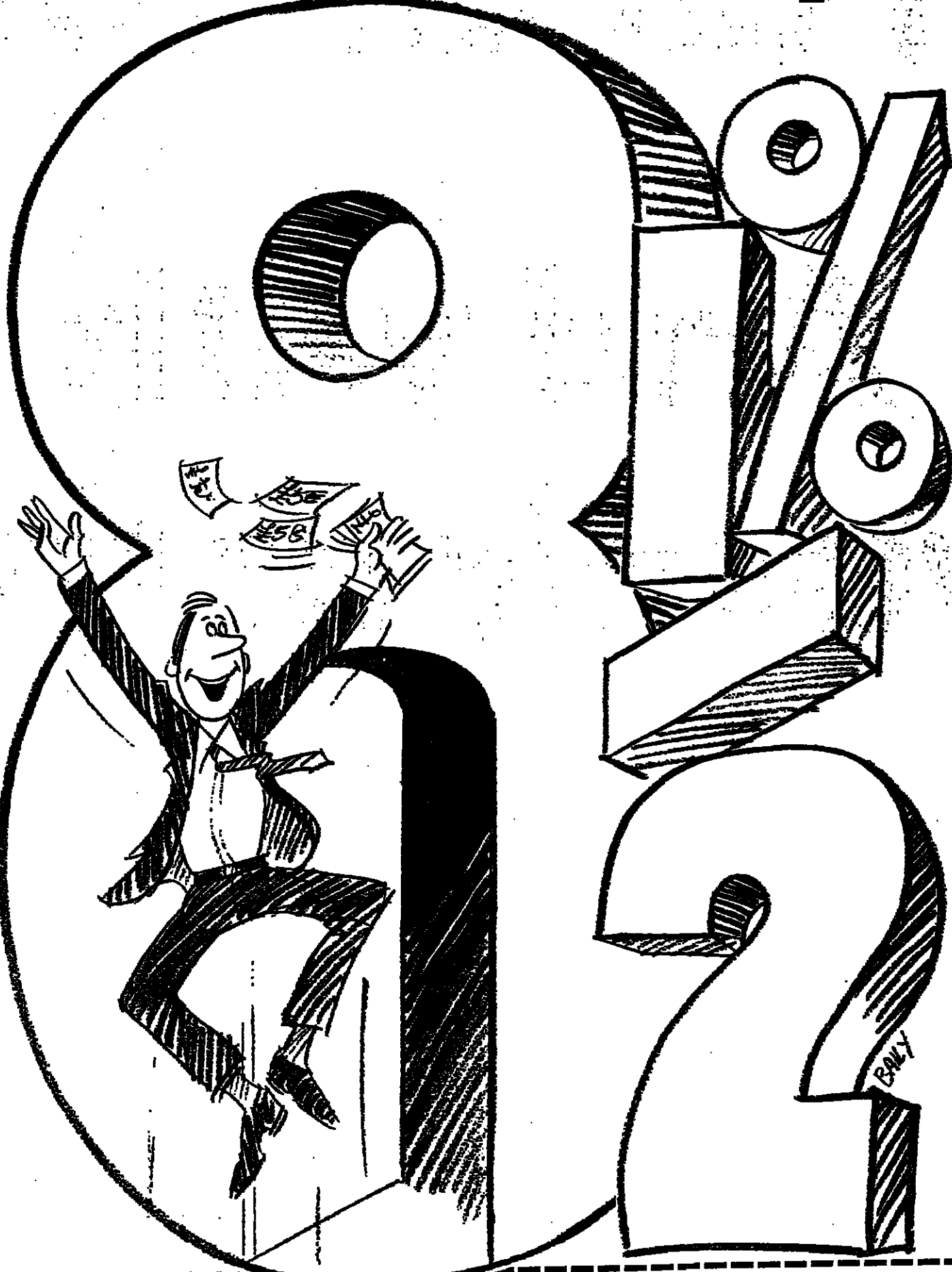
MR JUSTICE WAITE, sitting with Mrs D. Lancaster and Mr J. A. Scouller, said that the industrial judgment that a mis-placed emphasis on the *Burchell* decision lay at the root of the decision in the present case and was responsible for the industrial tribunal's error.

The observations in *Burchell* - namely that an employer dismissing an employee for misconduct

believed in the employee's guilt; that he had reasonable grounds for his belief and that he had carried out a reasonable investigation - were intended as guidelines to assist tribunals at an earlier stage of their jurisdiction.

In the present case the industrial tribunal had directed themselves exclusively by the light of the *Burchell* formula, causing them to review the evidence artificially in compartments instead of following the broad base of inquiry required by section 57(3) and looking at the employer's conduct in the round.

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New procedure applies to existing offences

Society of Lloyd's v Brooks and Another

The Society of Lloyd's had power to invoke the new disciplinary procedures, which had been set up pursuant to the Lloyd's Act 1982, against its members in respect of misconduct alleged to have been committed before the Act came into force.

Mr Justice Neill so held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division on March 6, granting declarations which the Society of Lloyd's had sought against two of its members, Mr Thomas Raymond Brooks and Mr Terrence John Dooley, in respect of its disciplinary powers.

HIS LORDSHIP said that sections 6(1) and 7 of the 1982 Act did empower the Council of Lloyd's to make by-laws which treated conduct prior to the Act's coming into force as a ground for disciplinary proceedings.

The by-laws complained of did not purport to create new offences

retrospectively, but created new machinery for dealing with existing offences, and the general presumption against retrospective statutes did not apply to legislation concerned with matters of procedure.

Under the old machinery members accused of misconduct were tried by their peers and the possible penalties were more restricted than under the new system.

However, Parliament's plain intention had been to introduce the new system because of the weaknesses of the old. It was a misuse of language to say that the defendants had accrued rights to be tried by their peers in respect of the alleged offences or to suffer only certain penalties.

However, in view of the words of Lord Chief Justice Coleridge in *R v Griffiths* ([1981] 2 QB 145), his Lordship doubted whether the Council could have made by-laws which created new offences in respect of past conduct.

The appeal was ordered to be re-listed after two months and heard.

Parking prohibited

The Rijn

It was quite clear that the Court of Appeal was not a parking lot for dormant litigation.

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Stephen

Brown, so stated in giving directions on March 8 regarding an appeal from an order of Mr Justice Mustill of May 27, 1981 ([1981] 2 Lloyd's Rep 269) on a special case stated by arbitrators.

The appeal was ordered to be re-listed after two months and heard.

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SPECTRUM

Wendy Oberman talks to Norbert Heyn, a former East Berlin lawyer now running out of time to reunite his family which lives in the same city, but cannot meet. Heyn is a dying man, longing to touch his grandchildren



Norbert Heyn and his wife Waldtraud, son Uwe and daughter Sabine, at the Brandenburg Gate



Daughter Regina with her husband Knute and children Sophia and Christopher in East Berlin

By the wall divided

Berlin is cut in two by a broad road, barbed wire and a cement wall punctured by watchtowers. The Western side of the city dresses like a gaudy tart, offering her salacious wares to a prim, almost puritanical East who hides behind unappealing grey blocks of cement.

In spite of their glitter, West Berliners wear the scent of refugees. They live in their pocket of shameless affluence, built on an overdraft, 150 kilometres from West Germany. Unless they fly, they cannot get out of their city without permission. Their cars and trains have to cross East German territory. English, American and French soldiers guard their gates.

West Berliners have families on the other side of the wall. Some get permission to visit. Others have to content themselves with a glimpse of their relatives from the reviewing stands at the Brandenburg Gate.

Norbert Heyn is one of the unlucky ones. He was once a lawyer in East Berlin, but now he lives on sickness benefit in the West. He cannot take his

second stage exam in order to practice as a lawyer. He also has cancer. His wife, Waldtraud, and his two younger children, Sabine and Uwe, are still with him. But his eldest daughter, Regina, lives behind the wall - just 20 minutes away, but unreachable.

They have not been together since December 14, 1977, when Norbert left East Berlin in the boot of a car. He has never met his grandchildren, a boy aged two and a girl of five. He

The 'sin' committed by his grandmother

can telephone, he can watch through the telescope lens of his camera, but he can never touch them.

Born in Berlin, Norbert had a difficult start in life. He was classified as one quarter Jewish by the Nazis because of the "sin" committed by his grandmother, who had married a Jew. At the outbreak of war he was 10 and already aware that the Jewish classification document had to be "lost",

otherwise he would not receive an education. He was evacuated to Silesia, but returned to Berlin after the war.

He survived, he says, "by crawling on my belly like a snake, going from side to side". He stole white zips from a deserted parachute factory and sold them on their trousers instead of buttons. With that money, he negotiated for cigarettes from American soldiers, whom he met in dark rooms, cocked pistols at their sides. "I took their cigarettes to the Russian sector and bartered with my fellow Berliners for potatoes. I took the potatoes to the Western sector and sold them for dollars. That way I made my money," he says without pride. "We lived like that. We had no other way."

Norbert discovered that if he went to university in the Russian sector he would not have to pay for classes. He decided to become a lawyer. Life treated him well. He married Waldtraud and they had three children. He blended into the system and was allocated a comfortable flat in the

centre of Berlin. When the wall appeared in 1962 Norbert was a good servant of the German Democratic Republic and was rewarded. He travelled extensively and even took a group of tourists to Moscow. An East German lawyer used his services whenever he needed an extra lawyer. The lawyer paid him well and often provided the little luxuries that Norbert was unable to obtain himself. He even occasionally managed to read West German newspapers *Stern* and *Der Spiegel*, which are banned in East Germany. He enjoyed the good life.

"I even joked with staid, senior party members. I felt secure under the lawyer's protection," he said. "To my clients I was like an angel of mercy. Often they had been imprisoned for up to six months without having seen anyone but their jailers. And then I would appear. I knew before I saw them when they would be tried and, of course, what their sentence would be. Everything is done according to procedure in East Germany." Grateful clients replenished his wine cellar. Would-be escapees and political prisoners blessed him as a saint, for he was an energetic defender of their rights - too energetic, he feels, for the East German authorities, who began to make inquiries about him.

Norbert Heyn's world came crashing down when one of his escapees eventually reached the West. At a press conference he named Heyn as his defence counsel. The lawyer was immediately instructed to stop using him. His cases just dried up. Clients told him that the secret police were asking questions. He made an immediate decision to go to the West.

"I took my wife and my youngest child, my son Uwe, to the mountains. We had a wonderful holiday. It was November. No people there, so peaceful." When they arrived back in Berlin, Norbert kissed his wife farewell and hid in the boot of a car "belonging to a friend". The "friend" was a Yugoslav diplomat. At the border he heard the East German guards ram a rod through the petrol tank, checking for smuggled goods. He saw the boot being opened and zealous hands turned over the contents.



Heyn: a bridge to cross

Fortunately for him, they did not check under some loose carpets at the back. When he reached the West he made a telephone call to Waldtraud. He told her: "Uncle Claus has arrived home."

The nightmare began then for Waldtraud and Regina. Waldtraud was a kindergarten teacher and Regina worked in the contracts department of an export bureau. Within two hours of Norbert's flight being discovered, they both lost their jobs. They were ordered to report to a shoe factory, where they worked on the production line. They were told to leave their flat and go into two rooms and a shared bathroom

somewhere on the outskirts of the city. They refused.

For months the fight over their flat continued, but eventually they were allowed to stay. Meanwhile, Norbert was waiting for his family to join him. Waldtraud was given permission to leave East Berlin on July 24, 1978. She brought Uwe with her. It was not difficult. She got on to the underground near her home, travelled for five minutes, got off the train, went on to another platform, and had her papers checked by the guards. The customs officer pressed a bell by his desk and the door swung open into West Berlin. Since that time her daughter Sabine has also been allowed to join her parents. But Regina has constantly been refused an exit visa.

Regina still lives in her parents' flat surrounded by their furniture. She is a pretty, blonde woman, dressing in jeans and a sweater that obviously come from the West. She is nervous of talking, and of the possible repercussions, but her father has told her it might help. She admits that if he had not gone to West Berlin, she would have no wish to leave. But since his departure her life has been plagued by the faceless officialdom.

Once she was ambitious. She would have liked to have studied to be a vet or perhaps have attended art school. Now she stays at home and looks after her two children. When her youngest child begins kindergarten she will return to work, but she knows that it will be in a kitchen, either on a cash point or preparing salads. When she last applied to leave East Berlin she was removed from her job in the shoe factory and relegated to the kitchens. Her husband is a skilled carpenter and would have started his own small business. Now he is only allowed to work as a shipbuilder, in the lowest possible position. Her parents-in-law do not speak to her. They cannot understand why she wants to go to the West. She used to go to the theatre and concerts, but now it is impossible to get tickets. "The allocation is given to workers, and I am not a worker with those kind of rights any more."

"The proposal cannot be considered..."

Twice a year Regina puts her two children in a car and drives to Marienbad in Czechoslovakia. The journey takes eight hours, but it is worth it. She sees her mother. Her father cannot go. He never gets the necessary permit to travel through East Germany. Waldtraud has not been back to East Berlin since the day she left. She applies for a visa every three months, but the reply is always the same: "The proposal cannot be considered." Once she obtained a pass and went to the checkpoint, but she was turned away because the birth date on the papers did not match the one the authorities had listed. Neither she nor Regina will forget the disappointment of the day.

Norbert says: "Regina is the most distressed of us, because she is very intelligent and intended to study. Now she is growing older and she has no perspective."

Regina and her husband apply for an exit visa every six months. Norbert, although ill, continues his own crusade. He has written to the United Nations, to Dr Kreisky, Prime Minister of Austria, and to Queen Sylvia of Sweden to help him at least to see his daughter. "I am desperate," he said. "I feel that time is running out for me."

Tomorrow

Spectrum Budget Guide by Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

moreover... Miles Kington

No flowers and painful cobbles

What is a New Town?

A New Town is a place where people are happy to play and work. It's about 35 minutes from London, yet it's surrounded by moorlands where curlews whistle and stags rut.

It stands on the crossroads of all the main road routes of Britain, so that nowhere is more than five hours away, nor indeed much less. It's nearer than you might think to four major ports. And its young airport already has direct flights to Leeds and Malaga.

A New Town has an arts centre where George Melly recently appeared.

Every day another factory opens up in a New Town. This morning it was the Garb-Rite factory, which employs 50 people in white coats and Joe the doorman. They manufacture white coats for people in new factories to wear. Managing director Jack Garb-Rite says: "It's a growing industry, and we're proud to make a British contribution to it."

What else does he say? "Oh, yes, sorry - and I'm glad we chose New Town to do it in."

A New Town used to be an old town, but the old town is now the Historic Centre, which you can walk around on painful cobbles known as a pedestrian precinct. To commemorate National Town-Centre Year, they installed four huge concrete tubs full of bulbs.

A New Town has an arts centre, where Richard Stilgoe recently appeared.

There is plenty of night life in a New Town, from the Pizza Parlour in the town centre to the Tin Luk Chinese Restaurant in the High Street back to the Pizza Parlour again. The cinema has all the latest films, but also shows vintage films such as early *Look At Life* documentaries.

There are plenty of young people in a New Town, many of whom have grown up here. Yes, there is a drug problem, but it's a young, modern drug problem.

Jake Thackray recently appeared in the Arts Centre of the New Town.

Within easy reach of the New Town there is fishing, golf, sailing and any amount of unsporty country pubs (see the New Town brochure: "Fishing, Golf, Sailing and Any Amount of Unsporty Country Pubs £1.50"). There is also a New Town Steam Railway Appreciation Society, which hopes to have the old five-mile branch line working again before 1989.

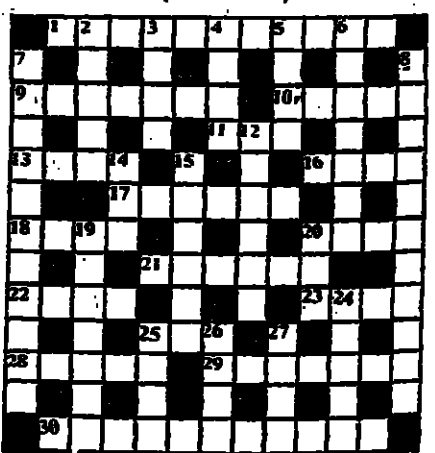
A New Town boasts one of the largest roundabouts in the country on its outskirts, and in the middle of the roundabout stands the Basco megasupermarket, where more than 500 shopping trolleys pass through the check-points every hour, many of them never to be seen again. If you would prefer to use the old shops in the Historic Centre, you can if you like.

A New Town is the centre of the computer industry. Here in the New Town we have an arts centre, where you can buy postcards and coffee, and where the Cambridge Buskers recently performed.

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CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 289)



- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Awkward situation (11) | 2 Surpass (5) |
| 9 TV prompt (7) | 3 Approving mark (4) |
| 10 Horse hindquarters (3) | 4 Paradise garden (4) |
| 11 No score (3) | 5 Exclusive (4) |
| 13 Panel image (4) | 6 In proportion (3,4) |
| 16 Wan (4) | 7 Saint's biography (11) |
| 17 Resurrection festival (6) | 8 Pacifying concession (11) |
| 18 State in wonder (4) | 9 Peace promoting (6) |
| 20 Strays off course (4) | 10 Born as (3) |
| 21 Venerated site (6) | 11 Respiratory disorder (6) |
| 22 Affected manners (4) | 12 Self-contradictory saying (7) |
| 23 Pout film (4) | 13 Assent (3) |
| 25 Possesses (3) | 14 Curry dish seed (5) |
| 28 Nine-headed monster (5) | 15 Follie growth (4) |
| 29 Luxury railcoach (7) | 16 Black marketeer (4) |
| 30 Ostentatious (11) | 17 Coal mine waste (4) |

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سكوا من الأصل

MONDAY PAGE

Penny Perriek

Stop him making eyes at me, Ma



New York
What gives New Yorkers their particular vibrancy is that every so often they discover a new problem to be tackled collectively, with energy and style.

This year's problem is the parent/grown-up child dilemma, and it manifests itself everywhere. On Broadway, there's the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *Night, Mother*, about a mother and her daughter who is intent on suicide. In the cinema, *Terms of Endearment*, loaded with Oscar nominations, is again about a mother and daughter — "a connection that reaches a peculiar rhythm of love and irritation that we may recognize from our own lives". Bookstores display titles such as *How to Stop Hating Your Parents* — on the bestseller rack.



Mae West: dismissive of men

The "relationship" is now a back number, last season's issue. *Ms* magazine, carries an interview with Mae West, written shortly before she died, in which that gorgeous sexpot dismissed men as some kind of low life that would have got in the way of her career had she given them half a chance.

A recent research project found that "women are more likely than men to give up a home function that conflicts with a job-related function" and that "women appear to like working more than men". All those books whose theme was how to get a man to love you have been remembered. In their place are much tougher manuals instructing you on how to get your man to shape up so as to be worthy of a New Woman, such as your lovely self.

New York men aren't that keen on women these days, either. On February 28, the National Organization of Men officially opened its national headquarters in lower Manhattan, with 2,700 members already on its books. Its aim is to combat the "skyrocketing political power of women" and to fight for the "elimination of affirmative action on a gender basis". Who can

blame them? The "gender gap" may well decide the presidential election. It is thought that if women can be persuaded to get out there and vote, Ronald Reagan will be out of the White House.

You can imagine the consternation. American men have behaved pretty nicely so far. They have allowed women into their offices, even offered them executive jobs, provided that the women are ten times better than their male competitors. They have allowed their working wives to serve them ready-prepared lemon chicken from a high-class deli, instead of cooking a meal after putting in a 10-hour day.

Now these uppity females, not content with responsibility, are demanding power and, most awkwardly, the power to choose who runs the country. There is even talk that the next time around, in 1988, there will be a female presidential candidate. As the saying goes, and some men are saying it already, give them an inch and they'll take a mile.

Fashion note: The two major fashion stories in New York are, quite clearly, the First Lady and Eddie Murphy, star of the film, *Trading Places*. In store windows, mannequins with Mrs Reagan's immaculate helmet of hair and thin arms are wearing her one-shouldered evening dresses and complicated Adolphe suits with loads of jewelry. I think this may be the male-dominated fashion trade cooing a snook at the New Woman in her slinky cut blazers, jeans and sweatshirts.



Eddie Murphy: leatherette style

Maybe there's some kind of subliminal message going on here, such as "Why settle for being the President when you can look so much prettier being the President's wife?"

The Eddie Murphy influence is seen at street level below the shop windows carrying their \$500 Nancy clones. At every corner is a young, male black wearing Murphy's leatherette, fake fur-lined flying helmet, hugging his arms around his chest against the bitter wind and trying to sell rows of brightly-framed sunglasses arranged on a tray.

Helen Mason examines the role of schools in setting standards for pupils

Should teachers be masters of morality?



Wendy Hale

The seven-year-old son of one of my friends was so puritanically opposed to smoking that his father had the choice of giving up or waiting until the lad was out of sight. The boy is now 14, and he smokes. So do 5,000 children in Britain between the ages of 11 and 16, spending about £60m a year on the habit.

Schools have responded to this fact, published in a government survey, in surprisingly diverse ways. More than one has acknowledged the situation, by setting aside a smoking room for pupils. Equally sympathetic but considerably more practical, a comprehensive in Manchester last month opened a clinic to help pupils stop smoking. Between these extremes, school reactions range from threat to suspension to fines payable to cancer research. No one, certainly none of the many head teachers I spoke to about this, seems to question that it is a responsibility of schools to react. For many of the children who will attend the Manchester clinic, parents were the source of supply.

The same applies to alcohol, which head teachers almost unanimously identified as the greatest problem for the young. Schools educate about the evils, many ban it from their premises and most forbid it on school trips, but parents will very often supply alcohol at teenage parties. Only drugs and solvent sniffing retain the power to frighten all parents. And with social acceptance of marijuana among many adults who grew up in the 1960s, even pot smoking is often treated with indulgence.

If there is tolerance among many parents, does this mean that teachers too, should revise their attitudes to smoking, drinking or drug use, particularly off school premises? It is not surprising that boarding schools heads, with well publicised exceptions, feel that on the contrary it is more important for them to set standards and maintain them. But, in talking to a selection I was impressed how many heads of day schools felt the same.

One London headmistress is particularly zealous and projects her influence into off-duty activities, even ringing up to warn parents if a bottle party is planned and declaring certain notorious haunts off-limits. More than one headmistress has banned girl pupils from attending discos at boys' schools because of bottles smuggled in and boys drinking before arrival. One Midlands headmaster, learning of weekend party plans, will ring parents to make sure they know what is going on and will be there to supervise. Often

he finds they had arranged a weekend away and had no idea what was going on. Are they grateful to be told? "Wouldn't you be?" he asked.

Such degree of involvement is not considered desirable by all. One Cambridgeshire headmaster said: "For schools to presume to interfere in parental regions is professional arrogance". But many parents welcome school backing on moral issues when children apply pressure for increasing freedom. It certainly strangles the cry: "Everyone in my class is allowed to..."

Mrs Pauline Matthias, retiring chairman of the Girls' Schools Association hand headmistress of More House in London said: "I think in a day school you have to get agreement between parents

and school, which covers the vast majority. I believe girls at city day schools like this have to live as if they were at boarding school". She would for instance, ask parents to postpone a planned mid-term party which would "knock them out before-hand, planning, and knock them out for a week afterwards having missed a night's sleep". And she always advises, no alcohol. "I have few parents who do not hold to our attitudes. I feel that schools have got to impose rules. It is easier for parents if they do".

A parent with a girl at More House told me: "It does make things easier if, like me, you feel instinctively what should be what but find yourself against mainstream. I certainly do not

resent it. I wouldn't send my daughter to the school if I did".

Most schools exert moral authority obliquely, by way of health education programmes and discussion, which can cover everything from VD to lung cancer. But how effective can this be, when the air of a staff room is blue with tobacco smoke and everyone knows the English teacher is living with her boyfriend? Are we saying to the young: "Don't do as I do?" Many head teachers candidly admit there are conflicts; even if schools are staffed by paragons, children have to go home to imperfect parents.

Headmistress of Islington Green comprehensive, Miss Gwen Evans said: "It is not exactly amazing that smoking is

increasing among the young. I remember one first year assembly for parents and children, and as the adults left the school, the first thing most of them did was light a cigarette. We catch youngsters of 11 smoking and find they have been at it for a very, very long time. Teachers are not absolved from responsibility but at the same time you are aware how limited your amount of influence will be".

At the City of London Girls' School which absolutely bans smoking, Miss Lily Mackie said: "I hope the school's standards of morality are pretty clear to children, but if these are contrary to what they are learning at home, I don't think it is any part of the school's role to make it more difficult for a child to live with her parents. Ultimately, the morals of the home are what is going to influence them".

It may seem surprising that parents would create such conflict by sending children to schools expected to hold standards they themselves no longer follow. Head teachers are wryly aware that, on the contrary, schools are often seen as the last stronghold of values. As one said: "It is the kind of thinking which causes lapsed Catholics to send children to strictly Catholic schools. Abandoning principles yourself doesn't mean you no longer believe in them. If you have abdicated the right yourself to pass them on, you want a school which will".

Mr John Sayer, headmaster of Banbury School, believes not only parents, but politicians and society in general, expect schools to create a moral climate. And he said: "It is quite unrealistic to believe schools can at the same time reflect society and be something different." Mr Sayer is spokesman for the Secondary Heads' Association, which has a policy of parent involvement, but he emphasized: "For schools to presume to tell parents their business does seem to me to be fraught with danger."

Mrs Matthias said: "Children may not openly welcome rules, but they need them. There is pressure to grow up too quickly, to experience everything by the age of 13. I like childhood to go on for a while."

Headmaster of Wellington in Somerset, John Kendall-Carpenter, a former England rugby captain and himself a parent echoed that. He said: "We all wish the problems would go away, don't we. But I don't think we can detach ourselves and say they are no part of our brief. Increasingly mature-looking bodies with under-developed brains are creating great difficulties for the young. There has been a fore-shortening of innocence."

Nouveau chez nous — with a cave!

FIRST PERSON

A new job for the wage-earner meant moving to France where, with four children, we are classified as *une famille nombreuse*. Ever since the eighteenth century, when it ensured that inherited property was not divided up, the French have gone in for, extremely small families. The birth rate is decreasing annually, and is now so low that it doesn't even maintain the current population level.

The bureaucratic French may not be able to force people to have the correct number of offspring, but they do have rules governing what size of flat *une famille nombreuse* may rent. With four children, of mixed sexes, we must, we are told, have a minimum of four bedrooms. However, since most French families are small, so are most of the flats they build. A four-bedroom rented flat in the provinces proved impossible to find.

A bureaucratic compromise was reached on our behalf. The house factor said he would let us have a Mme Simon's flat which, though it had only three bedrooms, could none the less meet the necessary standard provided he counted the L of the L-shaped salon as a bedroom annexe.

Gladly, we paid a month's rent in advance but where not entitled to move in until another formality had been seen to — the *état de lieux*. Literally, the "state of the place". The factor must escort the future tenants round the property, describing its precise condition, in words that are approved and witnessed by both sides. The *état de lieux* form is signed, two

copies, and only then may the keys be handed over. We sailed across the Channel with our *famille nombreuse* and our tea-chests, and drove directly from Cherbourg to Caen for the *état de lieux* appointment. We waited apprehensively outside the bleak block of what we hoped might feel like home.

After an hour, the factor hadn't turned up, so we sidled into the nearest bar at the corner of the block. Our arrival in a GB car had already provided the patron and his afternoon customers with plenty of interest, and yes, of course he would change a 50 franc note for some coins for the phone. From the Bar Lyautey, we spoke to the house factor's office. *Oui, oui, oui*, naturally they knew who we were. And *oui*, naturally they had received our 1,345.63 francs for the rent, and did we realize there was a further 1,400 francs monthly for the water and general services? But, *hélas*, they were very sorry but *monsieur le directeur* had forgotten the appointment and had gone to play golf. Never mind, his secretary would be dispatched instantly.

We ordered drinks. One vermouth, a pastis, two diabolos menthes, and two perognets later, Mlle Francine, young, cool and mildly apologetic, arrived with the 17 keys soon to be ours. She let us into the main entrance hall.

The second key, Mademoiselle explained, is for our mailbox, fixed to the hall wall like an indoor bird's nesting box. "The next key is for your

cave," Mademoiselle said. Our cave? "Qui. Your cave for your bottles." Ah, our cave! We tried to look as though we knew perfectly well that, even in a modest modern flat, we would expect to have a proper wine storage cellar in the basement.

We followed Mademoiselle up to the third floor. *Hélas*, not one of the remaining 15 keys fitted the front door to Mme Simon's ex-flat. Mademoiselle became flustered and, against the rules, even let us have a try.

Back down to the Bar Lyautey where the patron and his customers were pleased to be further entertained by the English standing around looking lost while Mademoiselle rang her office. She seemed relieved to be told that she had been trying the wrong door to the wrong flat. There are two Mme Simons, one on the third floor, another on the fourth. Luckily, Mme Simon on the third was either out or deaf.

Mademoiselle led us to the correct door and let us into a delightful though utterly empty apartment. Out in the provinces, there are no furnished flats, and unfurnished means precisely that. Anything that could be removed, unscrewed, or lifted out, had been, leaving taped-up electric wires where there might once have been light fittings, and dozens of neat holes where once there might have been hooks. Even the shelves in the fitted cupboards had gone.

However, the overall lack was made up for, in our eyes; by the novelty of those fixed items which remained — the two

bideis, the wooden roll-down shutters, the balcony, and the aerial views across the city towards the open countryside.

"Où là là!" cried Mademoiselle just the way we always pretend the French say it. "Où là là!" I thought she was exclaiming with relief that the previous tenant had left mud-coloured fitted carpets, though this was only because they were glued to the floor. But Mademoiselle began to scribble frantically all over the *état de lieux* forms. Everywhere in the empty flat, she could see scratches on the paintwork, cracks on the ceiling, and black splotches on the carpet. She wanted our approval of her careful wording for the precise shape, position and probable cause of each.

"It is in your interest," she insisted. "Otherwise, when you leave, you will have to pay."

At last the flat was ours, though in darkness for, despite several previous requests, *Electricité de France* won't turn on a supply till you prove you are actually living at a given address. This one does a clerk explained with great patience, by producing a used envelope with your own name and address on it which has been received through the post.

Getting a phone installed is, by contrast, instantaneous. The girl in the *Téléboutique* says, "What colour?" goes to a cupboard full of phones, takes one out and hands it over. You carry it home under your arm and plug it in. We phoned both grannies in England to say we had arrived.

Rachel Anderson

idea of a secretary obtaining a new watch strap for her boss, or removing a stain from his designer tie, as indicative of his helplessness. On the contrary, I suggest it is indicative of the fact that he is devoting his time to his management responsibilities — for which he is paid highly.

No doubt it would cause worse feeling among his employees if the chief executive, rather than his secretary, were to take time out to purchase his own brown bread sandwich; and, after all, a senior secretary in a professional management team spends only a fraction of her time searching for snakeskin watch straps.

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The city's slicker

From Mrs Alison Sproston, 21 Mackenzie Road, Cambridge.

How I agree with Penny Perriek (Monday Page, March 5) when she extols the virtues of city life for children. How rarely is it ever said. I too have always felt that children who can walk or cycle to school, shop, take ballet lessons, visit museums, swimming pools, theatres and so on, because all these things are within easy reach of home, grow up with an enormous advantage

over their suburban or country friends who must spend half their lives in cars, being expensively transported to and from by "Martyr-Mum".

I now live as centrally as I can afford, and I am encouraging my young daughter to appreciate town life too, and to take town amenities for granted, and I know that when she is a bit older she will be independent of me and my husband for her transport for most everyday activities. Do country children never resent always having

mum or dad on hand because of the transport problem? Surely our greatest responsibility to our children is to teach them independence, and what better or more enjoyable preparation could there be than learning to find their own way in a big city?

Boss's strap

From Barbara Smith, UK Public Relations Officer, European Association of Professional Secretaries, 31 Cornwall Gardens, London SW7. Penny Perriek may regard the



PARIS DIARY

by Frank Johnson

Parlous français

When French politicians have to make a speech, but cannot at first think of a subject, they tend to opt for the threat to the French language. It is the equivalent of British politicians in similar circumstances warning against the threat to the American Alliance, or to elderly ladies. All their compatriots can agree or, rather, dare not say they could not care less.

President Mitterrand only recently made a notably eloquent speech on the threat to the French language. He was on a state visit to Holland. There is no connexion between Holland and the threat to the French language. But what else has Mitterrand got to talk about in Holland. So, being short of something to say to the Dutch, he merely gave them the speech they would have got had he been in the Hautes Pyrénées. Whatever the explanation, the Dutch accustomed to living among larger powers, behaved as if it were perfectly natural that their bleak, northern soil should be the setting for a defence of Laity.

The Gaullist M. Jacques Chirac, at the moment Mitterrand's most powerful rival for the Presidency, was at a disadvantage in any contest to be the defender of French. He speaks English. So, shortly after Mitterrand's speech in Holland, he too made a speech warning against the threat to French.

Mitterrand's lack of English is, however, a ruthless tactic for M. Chirac to counter. For all speeches by French politicians about French are also, in code, speeches about English. Quite why the French want their language debased, as English has been, by becoming more of an international language in the cacophonous modern world, is presumably to do with prestige and wounded pride. But is the entire problem based on an over-estimation of how long the present supremacy of English will last? A book called *A Thousand Million Latins in the Year 2000* was published here this week by the Latin Union, edited by a man from the Institute for Research on the Future of French. With the hint of a sort of dignified gloom, the book says that more and more people are being born whose mother tongue is Spanish or Portuguese, not English. It does not actually argue that more French and Italians are being born than might otherwise have been expected, but it seems to imply it.

So far, the thesis would tend to suggest that the language of the future, internationally, is Spanish and, in Romania, Romanian. But in that case, it is extremely unlikely that the book would have been produced, with something of a flourish, in Paris.

So, in the end, it holds out hope for French, though concluding that intelligence and continuity of action will be needed to reinforce it as a second international language.

Alas, the book does not demonstrate why all these Latinophones will not communicate with one another in the biggest of the languages - Spanish or as seems most likely, and most feared, rotten English!

Beaucoup de Bard

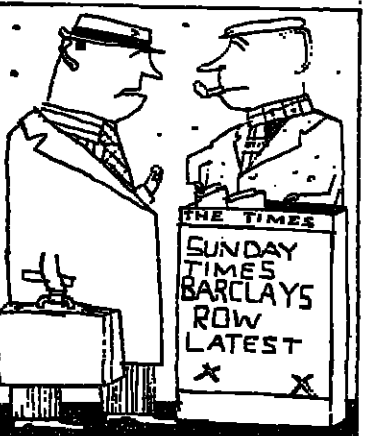
The *Hamlet* in the BBC's Shakespeare series was shown on television here last week with French subtitles. To watch British Shakespeare productions is not one of the reasons why Britons come to live in France, so I missed it, though as one who finds much amusement in subtitles as a genre, I am tempted to say, "Get thee to a nunnery" came out as something like, "Allez au couvent."

The critic of a nationalist weekly magazine, M. Francois Lebreton, while saying that the series was superb, lamented that it was easy for the British. Their national dramatist made such good television with "skulls in cemeteries, witches in woods, armies confronting one another directly, try doing that with Racine or Molière."

M. Lebreton decided that Victor Hugo's dramas were the answer. He suggested Hugo's *Cromwell* for TV. "It is all there. Plots of cavaliers and roundheads in the taverns - dwarf acrobats, poets... as well as vast global issues."

M. Lebreton could be envious of either Shakespeare or the BBC. But the former remains a steady draw in France. The Royal Shakespeare Company is coming to the Theatre Champs Elysees soon with English-language performances advertised as *Beaucoup de bruit pour rien* (Much Ado about Nothing) and *Lea* (Edward Bond). Inquiries revealed that tickets were selling equally well for both, the Parisians being apparently under the impression that the *Lea* was Shakespeare's, not Mr Bond's, and that Mr Bond was some brilliant British director. This time it is the French who could cause a riot on the night.

BARRY FANTONI



"I must say, it certainly gives a new meaning to chequebook journalism!"

A common cause for complaints

Larry Gostin explains how the new Police Complaints proposals have reconciled three bodies often at odds with one another

It is not often that the National Council for Civil Liberties joins forces with the Police Federation and the Law Society. This week while there is still time to change the Government's plans for the police complaints system - our three organizations, covering the entire spectrum of opinion on the matter, have agreed on a series of amendments to be put to the Parliamentary Committee on the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. We call for the application of five principles.

First, that the investigation of the complaint must be by an independent body - ie, that is a police complaints authority which should employ its own investigators. At present, a complaint made by a member of the public is investigated by a senior police officer (albeit sometimes from another police area). The Police Federation says in its parliamentary briefing on the Bill: "The longstanding arguments over police complaints will not be resolved so long as the police are seen as judges in their own cause". The constable may be unjustly branded in the eyes of the local community who lack faith in the system which "cleared" him.

The public's right to have complaints investigated independently was backed by Lord Scarman's inquiry. The Police Complaints Board itself concluded in its triennial review that, in dealing with complaints of assault, the investigating officers were sometimes too ready to accept the word of the police officer against the complainant, and did not review the evidence sufficiently rigorously. The same conclusion, backed by specific cases, was reached by the Home Office research unit.

Once the case is investigated it must also be independently adjudicated, and that is our second agreed principle. Currently the great majority of cases are adjudicated by the Chief Officer. From the police officer's perspective, the Chief Officer is in a position of authority and is not regarded as impartial.

and from the public's perspective, a system which appears to rely almost exclusively upon professional self-regulation or "peer review" will not command confidence. Independent adjudication must operate under statutory rules which ensure, minimally, that the rules of natural justice are respected, and that all parties have a full and fair hearing. Because the officer stands to lose so much by an adverse decision there should also be a right of appeal to an independent body. The present system of appeal is undertaken by a committee appointed by the Home Secretary. This means the police remain virtually the only professional group which does not have access to a fully independent system of appeal.

Our third principle is for legal representation at the earliest stage for police officers facing disciplinary proceedings. The officer may, ultimately, lose his or her livelihood as a result of disciplinary proceedings; it is essential, therefore, that the proceedings should be seen to be fair to the officer. The right to have a legally qualified person speak on the constable's behalf will help ensure that the evidence is reliable and sufficient. We do not accept that the presence of a legal representative could undermine the Chief Officer's responsibility for the force when a disciplinary hearing is taking place.

Sometimes complaints can be conciliated without resorting to formal disciplinary proceedings and, where this is possible, it is

clearly desirable. Our fourth principle is that conciliation should be with the consent of both parties; that it should not jeopardize the future position of the officer or complainant; and that there should be some independent assistance given to the parties - that is, by the Police Complaints Authority.

Finally, the decision as to whether criminal prosecutions should be taken should be made in all cases by the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is wrong that a chief constable should have discretion to prefer disciplinary charges where the facts disclose a criminal offence. This deprives the officer of his right to be tried by a criminal court with the usual criminal procedures and legal representation. It is agreed, however, that the double jeopardy rule should not apply in cases where the DPP decides not to prosecute. In such cases, if there are reasonable grounds upon which a disciplinary offence could be charged, the Police Complaints Authority should ensure that disciplinary proceedings are brought.

People of all political persuasions should regard these five principles as a fair and balanced package of measures. The government proposals in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill do not have the confidence of those who are responsible for law enforcement (the police), those who may represent the parties (the legal profession) and those who have cause to make a complaint. Our three bodies have come together to take this unique opportunity, while the Bill is before Parliament, to seek to end the perennial doubts about the fairness of the complaints procedure. Our dual objectives are to give the public confidence that each complaint is rigorously and impartially investigated, and to give police officers confidence that their rights are respected within the disciplinary system.

The author is general secretary, National Council for Civil Liberties.

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Bryan Appleyard on the battle at the Arts Council



Michael Church, far left, may complain in public about the management of literature spending at the Arts Council - but behind the scenes Sir William Rees-Mogg, above, has carried out a silent revolution for Arts Minister Lord Gowrie, left

Exit welfare, stage right

This month the Arts Council is engaged in the most radical rethink in its history. It is virtually reinventing itself and not surprisingly, inside the former hotel at 105 Piccadilly, which is the council's London headquarters, the strain is beginning to tell.

A week ago Michael Church, the literary editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*, resigned from the council's literature panel - the panels consist of unpaid advisers from the world of each particular art. He did so in a blaze of publicity, blaming the well-known difficulties of the literature department on individualism and attempting to exculpate the system itself. He knew the department was under threat.

But the really remarkable fact about Church's sudden explosion was its isolation. In view of the scale and potential effects of the transformation now being wrought at No 105, it is a wonder there is not at least one Church a week.

For, amid all the habitual flurries and alarms at the council which has not been fully appreciated is that the revolution has already taken place. The announcements to come on March 30 of the list of Arts Council clients (the council's word for recipients of grant) to be cut, and the subsequent internal reorganisations which are bound to occur, will simply set the seal on the achievement of Sir William Rees-Mogg, the council's chairman.

In essence this has been to convince the council and a sufficiently large body of the senior staff that now is the time for change. The council can no longer act as if the

palmy days of growth in the 1950s and 1960s might one day return. Instead it must streamline itself, take a grip of its own destiny and start applying arts subsidies strategically rather than on the old, happy-go-lucky "response" basis of the past 38 years.

Sir William has thus had to overturn the traditional soft-hearted welfare approach and replace it with a harder pragmatism. A street theatre group in, say, Didsbury, will still be assessed on its quality but the new element in its assessment will be how it fits into the overall arts strategy for Greater Manchester and the North West.

On March 30 every annual client of the council will receive a package through Datapost. It will contain a full copy of the document outlining which arts organizations will be cut in the year 1985-86. Even the method of informing the organizations was arrived at only after some heart-searching. In 1980 the cuts in the client list were announced by ordinary post and the chaos was appalling. A mass meeting was considered this time - one wit suggested using the roof of No 105 to give clients the opportunity of jumping off, but he was reluctantly overruled.

Forty-one companies were cut in 1980. This time there may be fewer but their combined size will be bigger. Possible casualties (among many) are the council's literature department, one London orchestra and the Hayward and Serpentine Galleries. An all-day meeting of the council's finance and policy committee today will work on the final

package, which should be ratified by the entire council on March 28.

There are, of course, dissidents - indeed, almost everybody has reservations - but there is no organized opposition. After March 30 the disaffected will probably leave quietly in dribs and drabs.

Such staff departures will in fact continue the one large strand of luck which has come Sir William's way. Since he arrived, nine out of the top 15 Arts Council posts have changed hands, or are about to change. Most significantly, Tony Field, the finance director and an employee of almost 30 years' standing, is leaving in the next month or so.

Field's departure has great symbolic significance. His mentor at the council was Lord Goodman and his attitudes and beliefs are based on the unquestioning Goodmanist liberalism which led the council through its most high growth periods. Yet Field is also an accountant and, in recent years, had revised his Goodmanism sufficiently actually to find himself supporting most of the broad elements of Sir William's strategy. Nevertheless, he clearly saw his time had come.

But if that package were not strain enough on all the potential Churches within the building, its aftermath could prove even more traumatic. For, once the strategy is announced, the process of reorganizing the council itself to cope with its new role will begin. The major features here will be a substantial level of devolution to the regional arts associations and a transformation of the panel system. There will

certainly be redundancies in London.

Precisely what type of Arts Council will emerge from this process is too uncertain to predict but one or two super-panels of as many as 250 all-purpose artistic assessors are possible. It is a prospect at which Church scoffs. "Inevitable," he says. "Even with the current range of specialized panels you often only find one or two people with enough expertise in some fields."

Delay in starting the reorganization process because of the workload created by the "client strategy" may in fact mean that Sir William's major battle has yet to be fought. Although he has convinced enough people of the need for change, he may have a rougher time defining the nature of that change when job losses are being apportioned.

That will, however, be essential to the success of his entire approach - because standing on the sidelines watching all this spring-cleaning is Lord Gowrie, the Arts Minister. Lord Gowrie's most pressing problem is finding a way of redirecting money for the arts which currently goes through the top-tier local authorities that his Government colleagues are planning to abolish.

If the Arts Council's performance over the next 12 months receives sufficiently good reviews, Lord Gowrie might decide that the local authority money can be replaced by funds going through the old hotel. And, if that happens, Sir William's final triumph will make this one look trivial.

protesting against not an entire economic or social order but a specific policy or development - a nuclear power station, Nato defence policy, or even, in Canada, sex shops - have increased the number of known separate groups to well over 500, making it extremely hard, as one official pointed out, to know exactly what to be on guard against. Who knew about the Kashmiri Liberation Army, before the recent murder of the Birmingham-based Indian diplomat?

State involvement in terrorist incidents has grown at a remarkable rate. Of the 1,112 international incidents last year, 270 are believed to have received some state sponsorship. Best known, of course, are the Libyan hit squads, but similar teams are operated by Syria, Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

Ferdinand Mount

Government with real feeling

What is it that the government lacks? How, precisely, is the malaise of the missing ingredients to be defined? Opinions are coming in thick and fast. It is rather as if some ailment which seems mild enough but is hard to pin down - bit of a temperature, glands up, furry tongue, patient feels below par - had been submitted to the entire membership of the Royal College of Physicians. After trying various more colourful and exact diagnoses, they fall back on the old favourite "viral infection" or, in this case, "lack of political feel".

It is tempting to mutter that, if that is all that is wrong, things could be worse. Happy the nation with a government whose most conspicuous fault is lack of political feel. But this, we are told, is only the beginning of the trouble. For this "viral" is said to be a creeping complaint which eventually breaks into a gallop. In the end, so the argument goes, governments can be brought down by a sequence of minor misadventures, some trivial, some comic some unforeseeable, some nothing to do with government at all - Profumo, Resale Price Maintenance, Parkinson, Grenada, GCHQ, that sort of thing. The morale of the governing party begins to crack. The voters begin to perceive the government as having lost its way and being no longer fit to govern. And so, curtains.

But is this really how things happen? On the whole, when modern British governments with working majorities collapse and are thrown out, it is because they have made a hash of the important things - not "are perceived to have made a hash", but have actually made a hash. Something is visibly piling up - inflation, or international debts, or taxes, or garbage in the streets - or we are brushing our teeth in the dark. It is usually real events that make or break governments.

To presume anything else is to take a cynical and defeatist view of politics. For it implies that since every government is bound to fail, the only way ministers can distract their voters is by constantly tickling their fancy. Yet it is worth noting that in the past 25 years we have had three prime ministers who possessed as fine a political feel as any in this century - Harold Macmillan, Harold Wilson and Jim Callaghan. But eventually they all came to grief.

By contemplating their years in power, we may gain a clearer idea of what this elusive quality of political feel amounts to. Who or what is it that politicians are feeling when they are successfully engaged in this pastime?

First and foremost, the "feelings" are likely to be people who have already become a tangible and articulate body - a trade union, a professional association, a business or environmental lobby. These are the people to be stroked and soothed.

When MPs or journalists call for greater "political feel", they are usually, whether they know it or not,

calling on the government to pay more attention to the sensibilities of particular groups, in short, to the vested interests.

Governments which are serious about the pursuit of prosperity and the progress of liberty have always had to offend vested interests such as the big game hunters, borough-mongers, arable farmers, trade unions, professional bodies. Closed shops have to be opened, but you cannot expect the shopkeepers to like it.

Tory complaints about "hand-ling" or "presentation" are often a polite way of expressing unease about the substance of policy. When Mr du Cann speaks about the need for Mrs Thatcher to "delegate" more to her colleagues, it is a fair guess that he hopes that her ministers would then do rather less and offend rather fewer vested interests. But is this sort of "feelie" politics really the way to success?

"Political feel" in this sense seems to exchange the feelings of the general public, especially the feelings of its least powerful members who are not in trade unions or well-paid professions or secure institutions, but who simply want lower taxes and better schools and shorter queues for buses and hospitals. And what the unorganized and inarticulate do have is votes.

Tact and a sense of timing, instinct, and a judgment of pace are virtues in politics, but they are not only virtues. And it is one of the corruptions of British politics - which has spread throughout the upper reaches of the Civil Service and Fleet Street - that these virtues have come to be regarded as pre-emptive. Politicians and pundits alike tend to vent for the politics of the club and the salon. They prefer the whisky in the smoking-room to the meeting with papers and diagrams. Indeed, it is this atmosphere of mystery and exclusivity which attracts many people to politics in the first place. In the Tory party especially, one of the rudest things you can say about a colleague is to call him a "technocrat" or "strictly a nuts and bolts man". Yet if the aircraft is to stay aloft, it is of the essence that the nuts be screwed on and the bolts bolted.

The bulk of the problems of the 1980s are the legacy of the "political feel" of the late 1960s and the inattention to nuts and bolts - coal, British Steel, the shipyards, the railways, the buses, the Common Agricultural Policy. As soon as political sensitivities were allowed to intrude, deals were struck, unrealistic plans made and promises given, and the inevitable postponed. All Baldwin's conciliation was displayed, with none of Baldwin's cunning. But the feel was terrific.

Does the Government need better public relations? Is Lord Whitelaw a sufficiently dab hand with the banana skins? Would we love Mr Nigel Lawson more if he shed a few pounds? I doubt whether any of these questions matters much in comparison with those stern old posers: is the government right? And what is its work?

Anne Sofer

Can the left set the Lords a-leaping?

One of the more hilarious political developments of recent weeks has been the left's new-found enthusiasm for the House of Lords. To defend the Rates Bill, the first of the Government's measures curtailing the powers of local councils, which is now being steamrollered through the Commons and is due to reach the Lords within the next few weeks, many of the more flamboyant and versatile performers among the local Labour leaders are bursting through class barriers as if they were mere paper hoops, and gulping down their political scruples with all the ease of accomplished sword-swallowers.

"Adopt a Lord" they cry to their astonished supporters. The hunt for persuadable peers is on.

And the left are not the only ones. The Tory local government interests, the charities and the churches, the arts lobby and the conservation groups are all at it as well. Their lordships have not been taken so seriously for years. They have in recent months become increasingly skilful and interlarded at the business of getting through amendments against the Government, but this is something of a wholly different order. It is being whispered this time that the Lords might even consider breaking with convention and use their powers to vote down a second reading of the whole Rates Bill itself. This would only formally delay, not finally defeat it, but it would nonetheless be considered a major setback for the Government's policy.

Whether the sizeable forces of opposition to the Bill could actually outvote a three-line Government Whip is one question; more serious is whether they would choose to do so. Would Labour peers actually want to set a precedent whereby future Labour governments might be fatally obstructed? And dare they suggest that the small print of an election manifesto does not constitute a sacred mandate? And for their part, Tory peers who may have been itching for years to prove their virility in defending ancient freedoms will hesitate to do so against a Conservative government.

The ironies abound. A further one is the fact that - whether through the mysterious workings of providence or some other cause - the balance between the parties in the House of Lords matches the balance of votes cast by the electors last June more closely than that in the House of

Commons. For the time being at least the Lords can make a claim of sorts that they are more "representative" of opinion in the country.

If I were a peer I would have no qualms about doing everything I could to stop the Bill. It is not just another piece of local government reform or a useful little device for better economic management. It is a huge constitutional change. The Lords are being asked, in effect, to endorse a shift of power from one set of elected people (the local councils) to another set of elected people (the House of Commons). It begs the question: is power in our society to be centralized or dispersed? Their lordships' perfectly proper sense of humility about their own lack of electoral credentials should make them all the more alive to the fact that democracy does not live only in the Palace of Westminster.

But deeply serious though the whole thing is - and there may indeed be a full-blown constitutional crisis, with professors and political advisers and journalists working deep into the summer nights to resolve it (or stir it up, as the case may be) - I cannot, just cannot, keep my brow furrowed and my thoughts solemn. I keep longing for the return of Gilbert and Sullivan to do justice to the whole affair.

I imagine some magnificent final chorus - of peers and NUPE shop-stewards, bishops and Militant sellers, parish councillors and gay-rights activists - drowning out the voices of the lead singers, while the ermine and the demo banners together sweep triumphantly across the stage. I can even hear snatches of the sublime doggerel they might be set to sing - something about "the people's will... the tyrant's Bill" or "the British aristocracy, the bastion of democracy..." or what about

The right to vote, the right to rate. Our ancient rights lie bleeding. Peers and peeresses of the realm Oppose the second reading!

No, I am not up to it. But something in the grand comic-opera style is needed; something that will show off the British constitution - that neo-gothic monstrosity that is one of the wonders of the world - at its best; and perhaps, if all else fails, kill the Bill with laughter.

The author is the SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

Caroline Moorehead charts the inexorable growth of international terrorism

This alien scourge

International terrorism is not only still with us; it is increasing steadily and seems likely to remain a problem well into the next century. This is the message from statistics now being gathered on a computer by the Rand Corporation in the United States and the International Relations Department of Aberdeen University.

The plague is usually recognized as having started in September 1972 when eight Palestinian terrorists kidnapped, held and killed Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics. By the end of that year terrorist watchers had recorded 269 separate international incidents, nationals of one country operating on foreign soil: kidnappings, sieges, assassinations and bomb explosions. Ten years later, that figure had risen to 746, and last year it was up again, to

1,112. As terrorists acquired more sophisticated weapons and forged better international links, so tactics changed.

Bombings, with greatly improved incendiary devices and the refinement, first of the car bomb and then the truck bomb, today account for well over 50 per cent of all international incidents. Assassinations and ambushes are also up. Terrorist operations are planned increasingly to cost little, yield the maximum publicity and promise the best chance of escape. By contrast, sieges of consulates and embassies have declined from the 1980 figure of 40 as diplomats and

buildings have been better protected.

One of the more alarming trends is a move towards ever greater violence against people. At the time of the Munich incidents, 80 per cent of all terrorist incidents were attacks on buildings or other properties: since 1980 the increase in deaths has been running at more than 13 per cent a year. Car and truck bombs are particularly destructive of human life. The terrorists need that brutality as the public has become inured to the destruction of empty buildings, so deaths have become important to ensure publicity. "Issue groups", small bands

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AT THE APEX

The Government's policy for higher education has been a product of its general offensive against public expenditure, embroidered with expedients to limit the damage. For the universities the blow fell in the autumn of 1981, for the polytechnics and colleges the worst is to come next autumn.

The policy continues. The Universities had half hoped for and been half promised "level funding" after the drop of 10 per cent or so in real income over the three years from 1981. Last month's expenditure white paper shows that for both parts of the binary system of higher education the downward slope continues for the full length of the forward look, that is until 1986-87. Each year the rate of increase in cash going to these institutions in aggregate is smaller than the rate of price inflation assumed elsewhere in the white paper, let alone the increases that may be realistically expected in their wages and salaries bill, which accounts for nearly three quarters of expenditure.

Necessary all this may be for the sake of larger political objectives; but as a policy for higher education it is certainly not sufficient. In the first place the universities seem to have been picked on compared with some other clients of the education budget and other areas of social expenditure at large. This is not attributable - at least there is no sign of it - to an argued judgment that higher education is exceptionally loose in its expenditure, or to a comparative rating of the value of universities as things in themselves or as instrumental to the achievement of the standard political goals of modern industrialized democracies. It is attributable rather to the convenience that funds going to universities are more readily regulated by Whitehall than funds reaching institutions via local authorities; and to the political opportunity provided by a post-Robbins satiety together with publicized examples of student anarchy and loutishness that have left the universities without the security of a protective public opinion capable of rapid mobilization.

Then it is plain that this way of economizing causes dissonances of its own. For instance, the minister would not heed the persuasive advice of vice-chancellors and the University Grants Committee that they needed more time than was proposed to adjust to the lower level of funding. So the universities incurred huge redundancy expenses which might have bankrupted some of them if the Government had not stepped in with a special restructuring fund. This partially cancelled the saving by drawing in extra money to be spent, not on doing what universities are there to do, but on enabling them to stop doing quite so much of it.

The general consequence of this phase of policy has been that every issue to be decided in the complex evolution of higher education, every path to be explored - and there are many of them - has been subordinated (sometimes distorted) to the scramble for diminishing resources at a time of considerable pressure of numbers.

Now at least a structured debate has been opened about lines of future development. In

November the UGC sent the universities a letter inviting their replies to 28 questions ranging from size to a shift to science, from tenure to privatization (which in the context means raking in as much as is available from industrial, commercial and charitable sources). Answers by the end of March. A similar exercise is in train for the non-university sector promoted by the National Advisory Body.

Two needs which underlie much else can be identified at the outset. The first is a return to some constancy in funding. The system of quinquennial grants, which used to be the pride of this corner of public administration, was killed by inflation and is now precluded by the introduction of annual cash limits. But some arrangement more stable than that of the last few years must be found if universities are to be enabled to conduct their affairs sensibly, for their affairs are not of a kind that can be switched on and off at the instant.

The second requirement is for a national structure of higher education that permits diversity of institutions. There is the diversity that springs from the genius of a place; and there is diversity of treatment, discrimination by the funding authorities between types of institution according to their functions or balance of functions. The first should be fostered, the second practised. Not all the manifold activities proper to higher education, vocational training, scholarship and research can be attempted equally by all institutions. Financial and human resources do not run to it. There must be differentiation. The binary system provides for it and should be retained. And within each part of it, notably in the operations of the UGC, there ought to be room for evolutionary variety.

Much of the argument at present concerns the future size of the student population. Planning and development has been demand-led for a long time, an approach confirmed by the statistical splendours of the Robbins report (1963). The principle has been that higher education will accommodate all who are qualified and wish to have it. The Government protests to an increasingly sceptical audience that this is still and will continue to be the position. It is written into the expenditure white paper.

In the early 1990s the higher-education age group dips sharply to little more than two thirds of its present size, before gradually picking up again. How far will it should that drop, in the raw figure be reflected in the number and size of universities and colleges in the 1990s? All agree that it should not be fully reflected because there are trends causing the "age participation rate" to rise, so that more students present themselves from a given size of age group. The relatively buoyant birth rate of occupational classes I and II, and their expansion thanks to changes in the distribution of employment, and the growing participation of women, are among the factors contributing to that tendency. Expert projections differ, with those of the DES coming out lower than those of other interested parties.

But demand is not simply

given. It is the product of policies as well as trends. It is susceptible to policy changes affecting schools, student maintenance grants, the shape of courses in higher education, ease of access to them, the recognition of a need for "continuing education" later in life in circumstances of accelerating technical and social change. If there is to be manipulation of demand, or to be targets that are more than projections, it must be on the basis of a confident evaluation of the intrinsic worth and social utility of the services supplied.

The most commonly considered alternative to just matching demand as it emerges is provision in accordance with estimated trained manpower needs - so many mathematicians, molecular biologists, industrial chemists, oriental linguists. ... Robbins looked at that and shied away. It is not simply that planning with that precision on that timescale is hopelessly impractical; it is an aridly vocational approach to higher education.

A broader and less numerical assessment of the worth of this form of educational effort has to be attempted. Judgment of vocational utility comes into it. The proposition that a future shaped by information technology implies a leading role for universities and polytechnics invites critical examination but at least it starts by appearing to be obvious. As does the proposition that the future rate of change in the techniques of economic activity puts a premium on the sort of transferable understanding and grounding in principle that universities are supposed to educate.

Questions of utility and worth go much further than that. However, universities in particular contribute far more to society than in the line of superior vocational schools. They have a research role that does not stop at what may be thought "relevant" to the concerns of the moment. They make for enlargement of the intellect, in the medium of a community, as Newman had it, (not a foundry, or a mint or a treadmill). They cultivate a critical intelligence in which the world may see itself reflected to its benefit. They are agents of cultural transmission and enlightenment. They innovate. They civilize. They serve the values implicit in the obsolete expression "seats of learning".

These are not quantifiable attributes. They cannot be calculated. But they can be recognized and regarded or disregarded. They constitute together a high view of the place of universities in society. If they are to carry public conviction, if they are to attract the resources they need, the universities themselves must be seen to believe in them and to be aiming for them.

It is a weakness of the UGC-promoted debate that it is conceived in narrower terms, starting off with plainly leading questions about funds, size and sources posed by the economically-minded Sir Keith Joseph. In Whitehall everything comes down to that in the end. But it is not the beginning nor is it the crux of the judgment that must be made by every generation: what are universities for, how much do they matter?

POISON SPREADING FROM IRAQ

It is now established beyond reasonable doubt that Iraq has been using chemical weapons against Iranian forces. This is a clear breach of the 1925 Geneva Protocol which forbids the use of chemical weapons, though not their production and storage. The protocol, to which Iraq is a signatory, was the result of widespread revulsion against the use of poison gas in the First World War. The Germans were the first to use it against British and French troops at Ypres in April, 1915. They also tried it on Russians in Poland. Two years later they used mustard gas against the British, causing many deaths and much permanent disablement of a particularly unpleasant kind.

The Italians used chemical weapons against Ethiopia in 1935, and the Japanese against China between 1937 and 1942. More recently there have been reports of their use in Kampuchea and Afghanistan. They have, however remained fairly marginal to the world's arsenals, not because human virtue has been more active in this area but largely because chemicals have mostly been regarded as less effective and more difficult to deploy than other weapons, particularly against opponents equipped with gas masks, or in areas where the climate is unfavourable. Hence the Geneva protocol has had a more favoured existence than many

other attempts to restrain warfare by agreement. Iraq has broken the protocol under great pressure. In a war that it started itself it is now fighting for its existence against waves of suicidal forces, often consisting of barely trained schoolchildren. If it gave any thought to the Geneva protocol it must have brushed doubts aside with the argument that, in especially favourable climatic conditions, gas was more effective and probably cheaper than conventional ammunition. Yet the report that it started building a chemical plant for the production of poison gas some years ago suggests that the decision was not made suddenly in a desperate bid for survival. It was the product of deliberate planning and over a long period.

In such a foul and wasteful war between two almost equally unappealing sides it is difficult to find any criteria for deciding which carries the greater moral burden. Neither side has been noticeably scrupulous on the battlefield, and many of the crimes committed by the Iranian regime against its own people are at least as horrible as those committed by Iraq against Iran.

Nevertheless, sensibilities should not be so dulled as to inhibit expression of horror at the use of a particularly nasty form of weaponry. It is also important to condemn a major breach of one of the few

international agreements on arms control that has been widely observed, particularly since there is now renewed activity around this subject at the Geneva arms talks. Last month both Britain and America proposed a complete and verifiable ban on chemical weapons. The Russians seem ready to accept on-site inspection of the destruction of stocks but they are resisting equally important proposals that possible production facilities should be open to inspection by challenge.

Hopes of agreement cannot be very high. Chemicals for use in war are so similar to pesticides and other chemicals that they are even more difficult to control than nuclear weapons. President Reagan's attempts to get congressional approval for the further production of chemical weapons suggests that Washington does not expect the problem to be solved by treaty in the near future. Yet arms control consists of a series of building blocks, each of which may be of limited value on its own but useful as part of a larger structure. Although chemical weapons are less central to that structure than are nuclear weapons their importance is growing and so is the need to control them. Iraq's action makes control more difficult by breaking the existing moral and political restraints on which future agreements will have to be built.

Giant steps in space for mankind

From Dr P. H. A. Martin-Kaye

Sir, Your leader (March 6) advocating serious consideration of Britain joining with the United States in development of the space station is welcome. But even more consequential than the purposes in science and technology that you mention would be the parade of Britain's capabilities in a conspicuous way.

Our principal competitors are intent upon seizing important and overt roles in remote sensing of the earth from space. Our own determination has been the avoidance of initiatives. It somehow seems supposed that when the rewards come to be taken, the leaders will stand aside to let us help ourselves. If we continue as we are, the actual case will be very different.

A succession of British governments has been persistently misadvised in these affairs. This stems from the lack of a national space agency charged with responsibility. Ministers and officials depend upon an army of committees populated mainly by people only peripherally concerned with the matters in hand, sitting infrequently and dominated by one or two self-interested government agencies.

Responsibility is diffused. Nobody is particularly in charge of anything. Under these arrangements it is not surprising that what is good for those that in reality make the running is taken to be best for us all.

In the absence of an executive agency of its own the Department of Trade and Industry turns either to the Royal Aircraft Establishment or the European Space Agency. What-

ever virtues these have there are obvious defects in the arrangements. We are already suffering severely.

The RAE belongs to the Ministry of Defence, which has no particular brief to promote civilian and industrial space activities. The acquisition by the Ministry of Defence of civilian responsibilities beyond this brief is in any event undesirable. None of us wants to see the MoD larger than it needs to be.

ESA, on the other hand, has no part of its function to put the United Kingdom's interests at the top of the list.

Hence this country has neither the advisory system nor the operational capability that it needs. The Government must urgently look to the effective administration of these matters. Space activities will not go away. They will become larger and more important. They are places to display gumption, initiative and capability. Our present showing is that we don't have any.

Quite apart from more immediate industrial and scientific purposes and considerations of national advertisement, the move into space is man's greatest venture yet. This is stuff to fire the imagination and something that we could all do with. Most of us would want the United Kingdom to have a worthwhile role in it. Your editorial is a significant step in that direction.

Yours faithfully,
P. MARTIN-KAYE,
8 Tudor Way,
Acton, W3,
March 8.

Facts of low pay

From Mr Julian Dodds

Sir, Rupert Morris (report, March 6) describes the Low Pay Unit as a vociferous defender of wages councils. Equally vociferous in their defence is the Society of Civil and Public Servants.

In a joint campaign with the LPU we have sought to counter this Government's offensive against the councils, not because we want to institutionalise low pay, but because we recognise that at the moment wages councils, whilst not perfect, represent one means by which many workers in this country can be afforded some protection against the excesses of bad employers.

That protection could be improved if government increased the rate of the Wages Inspectorate. Yet since the Conservatives came to power, the inspectorate staff has been reduced by 30 per cent.

To suggest that wages council "awards" cost jobs is an absurdity. All the indications show that the number of those who fall into the "low paid" category has increased

dramatically since 1979. Where then is the consequential decline in unemployment?

No, the Government's prejudices against wages councils represent its desire to further improve the low paid and to drag down the standard of living of workers generally. Many employers oppose this philosophy.

The SCPS and the LPU have jointly sponsored an exhibition drawing attention to the real facts of low pay. We would like to display it in the House of Commons. John Selwyn Gummer says that it would serve "no useful purpose". Tom King is against it because low pay is "a sensitive issue".

If there is unease amongst MPs about the role of wages councils we are offering an opportunity to them to discuss the issue. The Secretary of State for Employment is denying MPs the opportunity to be presented with the full facts.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN DODDS (Secretary,
DE Group Section),
Society of Civil & Public Servants,
124/130 Southwark Street, SE1,
March 8

Brooklands track

From Councillor Mrs Stanley Alexander

Sir, Today's back-page report (March 3) by Michael Horsnell on the Brooklands race track saga fails to tell the full story.

The vintage photographs from the thirties certainly provoke nostalgic memories, but an inspection of the site as it is today and has been for over 20 years shows a sadly derelict and neglected area, apart from what is already covered by British Aerospace and other worthy industrial concerns.

The Brooklands Society have valiantly given hours of voluntary care, but the rabbits and weeds have won a battle on the 500 yards of remaining disintegrating track. Half of this is listed and hopefully will be restored, together with all the other premises, refurbishments, the club house as a museum, the members' bridge and the flight tower, not to mention the fencing of the entire site which has already been completed, all at Gallaher's expense, for some £250,000.

Brooklands enthusiasts, the general public and those of us who have lived here for a generation and brought up our families will at last have an opportunity of legitimate access and the pleasure of visiting the future museum.

Gallaher's prestige office, well designed and situated among the dense trees, hidden from the Brooklands Road and housing, seems to us a good use of surplus land that most local people did not even know existed.

Yours sincerely,
MINDA ALEXANDER,
19 Templemead,
Oatlands Drive,
Weybridge,
Surrey,
March 3.

Prescription charges

From Dr Ian Hamilton

Sir, Nicholas Timmins's article (March 7) does not draw attention to the unrestricted use of the family practitioner services by a public who have increasing expectations of medical care, with consequent rise in expenditure.

Little attention has so far been paid to the inequality of prescription charges and the waste of drugs this produces. Surely the time has come to remove this costly tax and at the same time ask patients to shoulder the whole cost of non-essential drugs.

Family doctors in fact have an increasing workload in most areas and the end of free prescriptions for trivial remedies would be followed by a drop in demand on the doctor's time and an improvement in the quality of medical care.

Yours faithfully,
IAN C. HAMILTON
Barnyards,
30 Kingsmoor Road,
Great Parndon,
Harrow,
Essex,
March 7.

Electricity prices

From the Chairman of the London Electricity Consultative Council

Sir, In 1983 I drew attention to the actions of the Regulatory Commission in New York, which made electricity utilities repay some \$23m to consumers because they over-budgeted. Last year, the London Electricity Board (LEB) refused to return the £23m excess profit it made above that required by the Government's financial target. The reasons given were spurious, including a claim that under Treasury rules the repayment would be illegal.

Treasury rules have no legal force. At the last London Electricity Board meeting I urged that the £27m excess profit that the board will make this year from over-budgeting be returned to consumers. I was asked whether I really expected that group of board members to take on Treasury rules. The answer to that is, yes, rules are for the guidance of wise men and the observance of

fools - which LEB board members are not.

Faced with Mr Lawson's proposal that next year boards levy a quasi-tax on electricity the LEB had a few brave independent thoughts last November. But when the crunch came, like the rest of the boards, it decided to override the commercial considerations and its statutory duty to "secure the cheapening of supplies", which are supposed to be paramount.

Next year, it proposes once more to earn over double the Government's agreed financial target, producing yet again an excess profit of £45m, and it will end the year by lending the Electricity Council about £100m. It will become the London Electricity Bank - indeed, the board's second objective in its current corporate plan is to lend money!

The ease with which the Treasury got the electricity supply industry (ESI) to override commercial judgment and its statutory duties to

consumers compares unfavourably with the way the British Gas Corporation sticks to its statutory and commercial goals. The ESI often complains of extra-statutory interference. It fails, however, to realise (as, for example, the traditions of the BBC illustrate) that proper independence and respect have to be earned.

And they are earned not by accommodation but by adhering to proper statutory and commercial principles.

If we are to be governed by Treasury rules and White Papers whose interpretation is changed to suit the convenience of the moment, let Parliament legislate to give effect to them. If not, let us legislate to give backbone to area electricity boards. The ESI deserves no respect for this miserable affair.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX HENNEY, Chairman,
London Electricity Consultative Council,
Newspaper House,
Great New Street, EC4,
March 9.

Yours etc,
L. AIREY, Chairman,
Inland Revenue,
The Board Room,
Somerset House, WC2,
March 8.

Yours etc,
IAN BRUCE,
Director General,
Royal National Institute for the Blind,
224 Great Portland Street, W1,
March 6.

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Inflation still the test of success

From Professor Robert Neild

Sir, May I answer the challenge which Jock Bruce-Gardyne (feature, March 7) has thrown at me as one of the initiators of the statement made by 364 economists in March, 1981. He reminds us that we said:

there is no basis in economic theory or supporting evidence for the Government's belief that by deflating demand they will bring inflation permanently under control and thereby induce an automatic recovery in output and employment.

He goes on to claim, "Yet it has happened, hasn't it?" To establish his claim it would be necessary to show that (a) there has been a recovery in output and employment; and (b) it has been the automatic result of a permanent reduction in inflation.

I shall make statistical comparisons of 1980, the last year for which estimates were available when the 364 made their statement, and 1983, the latest year for which estimates are now available.

The GDP in 1983 was about 3 per cent higher than in 1980. Excluding oil and gas, the increase was only about 1.5 per cent, comprising an increase in output of services and a fall of 4.5 per cent in output of "production and construction" (i.e., goods) excluding oil and natural gas.

As these increases in output are so far below the growth of productive potential it is doubtful the word "recovery" is appropriate at all. Certainly there has been no recovery in employment: the employed labour force fell by nearly two million between 1980 and 1983; and unemployment, recorded on a consistent basis, rose by about 1.5 million. The very latest figures show unemployment rising again after a pause in the autumn.

Comparison of the second and third quarters of 1983 with the second and third quarters of 1980 shows that, out of a total increase in final expenditure at an annual rate

of £12bn at 1980 prices, stockbuilding accounted for just over £2bn; that was a once-for-all reaction to the heavy de-stocking which amplified the downturn in 1980 and 1981.

Almost another £2bn was higher public consumption; this was the result, intended or unintended, of Government policy. The really big change was a rise of £8bn in consumers' expenditure. Some part of this was indeed an automatic once-for-all consequence of lower inflation: people - and companies - needed to save less to keep the real value of their financial assets intact.

But the dominant cause has been a huge rise in personal borrowing from banks, hire-purchase finance houses and building societies: expenditure on consumer durables rose by over 30 per cent and accounted for over half the total increase in consumers' expenditure.

Far from being automatic or having anything to do with the Government's deflationary policies, this followed the abolition of restrictions on credit and the improvement of tax concessions on mortgages: it was the consequence of reflationary action by the Government. Moreover this type of expansion is not sustainable. Debt cannot rise indefinitely relative to income.

The inflation rate fell from 18 per cent in 1980 to 4.5 per cent in 1983 and has recently been edging up. It has yet to be seen whether inflation has been brought under control permanently in a manner that will survive a full recovery without any kind of incomes policy.

I stand by the statement of the 364.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT NEILD,
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Economics and Politics,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge,
March 9.

Swapo founder freed

From Mr Peter H. Katjavi

Sir, The release of the Swapo founder, Herman Toivo Ja Toivo, as reported in *The Times* on March 3, is to be much welcomed. It is a source of great encouragement to the Namibian people, who are striving for their freedom and national independence.

I was fortunate enough to speak to Ja Toivo over the weekend. He sounded strong despite his 16 years in South African jails. In particular, he asked me to extend his gratitude to all those in Britain and elsewhere who have campaigned over the years for his release and for the cause of Namibian independence. He explained that it was the knowledge of this concern that had kept his spirits high and enabled him to withstand the hardships he suffered.

Ja Toivo stressed, however, that although five Namibians had been transferred last week from Robben Island to Windhoek, only he and one other colleague, Wilbard Lazarus Zacharia, had actually been released. The other three, Lazarus Guibeb, Marus Mavulu and W. Mhiva, are still being held in Windhoek prison.

He added that there are at least 38 Namibian political prisoners still on Robben Island. Moreover, there are several hundred other detainees being held in Namibia itself.

Ja Toivo does not consider his freedom to be complete until all other Namibian political prisoners are free and the goal for which he has sacrificed so much is achieved - freedom and national independence for Namibia.

Yours faithfully,
PETER H. KATJAVI,
St Antony's College, Oxford,
March 5.

According to form

From the Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue

Sir, Mr J. M. Welch asks (March 6) why inspectors of taxes cannot wait until after the Budget changes are announced before sending out notices of coding.

I can assure Mr Welch that it is not wasted work to amend PAYE codes before the Budget. Amendments are made only where known change of circumstances means that a new code will be needed for the coming tax year, whatever the Budget proves to contain. Except for a small minority of cases, the Budget itself will not call for further code amendments to be issued to individuals.

Budget changes in the major personal allowances are handled by employers on instructions from the Revenue, so that a general issue of new codes by the tax office is not needed for these.

Yours etc,
L. AIREY, Chairman,
Inland Revenue,
The Board Room,
Somerset House, WC2,
March 8.

Yours etc,
IAN BRUCE,
Director General,
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Issue of civil liberty

From Mr Richard Ottaway, MP for Nottingham North (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Gostin, the new General Secretary of the NCCL (National Council for Civil Liberties) states (February 28) that he intends to approach civil liberties on an all-party basis. Greater credibility could be given to this statement if the NCCL and its supporting MPs were to drop their opposition to the Nottinghamshire County Council Bill.

The Bill has been opposed on many obscure grounds, but at the heart of it is an objection to the clause which provides that anyone who wishes to organize a march or procession in public must give 24 hours' or reasonable notice to the police; the clause is presumably objected to on the grounds that this is an infringement of civil liberties. Whether or not this is a challenge to human rights is for the individual to decide but the NCCL's objection must be put into context.

It so happens that this requirement has been, under another piece of legislation, a statutory requirement in the City of Nottingham since 1929 and no one, including the local branch of the NCCL, has ever complained that it is an obligation which is oppressive, unreasonable or an infringement of liberty; furthermore the whole Bill has the support of the Labour-controlled Nottinghamshire County Council, the Labour-controlled Nottingham City Council, the Conservative opposition on both councils and all the County of Nottinghamshire MPs, who are predominantly Conservative.

If Mr Gostin and the NCCL are to be believed that they have turned over a new leaf and deserve all-party support they must first put their own house in order.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD OTTAWAY,
House of Commons,
February 29.

Not so super rat

From the President of the British Pest Control Association

Sir, Your super-rat story by John Wynn (February 27) gives a misleading impression of invincible mutant rodents which is not justified by the facts.

Since the war, rat-resistant rats and mice developed in the 1960s, a range of satisfactory alternatives has been developed, to one of which, difenacoum, some rats in Hampshire are now also resistant.

For all practical purposes rodenticides such as brodifacoum and bromadiolone are effective.

Yours faithfully,
PETER L. G. BATEMAN,
President,
British Pest Control Association,
Aldermic House,
93 Albert Embankment, SE1,
March 7.

Run on the banks



10

THE ARTS

Opera

Janáček triumphantly vindicated

Jenufa
New Theatre, Cardiff

The Welsh National Opera's vivid Janáček cycle has turned full-circle, coming back to the work with which it started eight and a half years ago. And completing a revolution like the great millwheel in Maria Björnson's strikingly designed first act, its return brings the return also of its principal architect: Richard Armstrong is back in the pit, to conduct an orchestra whose muscles and minds now work on Janáček to make his music a compelling language of gesture and emotion, and David Pountney has returned to stage this revival of his powerful, stark production. Only the opera has changed.

There is of course the sense in which it has done so because the Welsh cycle has now familiarized us with Janáček's world, but the *Jenufa* of Friday evening was different too in more substantial ways. Very first performance of the score as Janáček wrote it, for ever since the Prague production of 1916 the work has held the stage in a version "amended" by its

conductor, Karel Kovarovic. Quite what happened when it was done at Brno a dozen years before nobody is very sure, but it is unlikely that conditions in an unregarded provincial town of the Habsburg empire were adequate to realizing Janáček's intentions. And though more recently Sir Charles Mackerras has conducted a clean text, prepared by himself, in Paris, even he felt obliged to keep the Kovarovic ending.

One can understand why. Comparison of the two versions at this point - a comparison made easier by Sir Charles's recording, in which both are included - reveals how effectively Kovarovic adds a satisfying respectability to Janáček's baldly positive conclusion. And yet, as Mr Pountney and his *Jenufa* have now proved, the original can be made to work in the theatre, and even to seem an improvement. At the end of her short final duet with her betrothed, *Jenufa* exultantly hastens to shut the door and pull down the shutters and then returns to stand in tremendous excitement before him. They will face the future together and alone, supported only by their knowledge of themselves gained through the terrible things that

have happened. This is precisely the realism that the original music conveys, and it makes for a more honest, clearer finale than anything the old edition might have inspired.

Otherwise the most notable gain in the original score is a monologue for the Kostelnicka in which she explains that she is opposed to *Jenufa*'s marriage with Steva because of her own unfortunate liaison with a wastrel, and this is crucial because it shows her harsh behaviour as motivated by a deep moral concern for *Jenufa*. Naturally it must change the interpretation of the part, and Phyllis Cannan offers a Kostelnicka who is staunch and serious-minded but not vindictive, whose struggles tear at her being before she takes the fateful step of disposing of *Jenufa*'s baby, and whose love for her step-daughter can fight itself out of her in passionate lyricism.

This is an admirable, rock-secure performance to set against the distraught, febrile *Jenufa* of Helen Field. Miss Field throws her slender figure about the stage in the first two acts, and her singing has the same tense interpenetration,

with phrases arching up into an ecstasy of love or anxiety that dismisses the possibility of loss of tone. It is a thrilling performance and, though this *Jenufa* is bodily stilled and sombre in the last act, her voice can touch an equal musical hysteria, so that the ending seems right to be a little wondering in its optimism.

Among the rest, Arthur Davies's Steva is vocally burnished and beautiful and, as he should be, thoroughly unreliable, while Jeffrey Lawton as Laca makes a lovely sound when he sings softly, and David Gwynne as the Foreman stands out in the first act for his rounded humanity, providing a stable contrast for so many characters who move in emotional fits and starts, lacking the means either to articulate or to master their feelings. The articulation comes, of course, in the orchestral score, which Mr Armstrong plays for all it is worth, persuading one while the opera lasts that Janáček's is the most direct possible expression of intense emotion. It is altogether a stunning achievement.

Paul Griffiths



Helen Field's ecstatic Jenufa

PUBLISHING

Panel beating

Is book publishing more to do with art - literature, the art of the book - than commerce? At its most rewarding, it has surely to do with both. The author produces, possibly in spite of himself and in thrall to mortgage, wife, family and bank manager, literature; or what posterity may be prepared to recognize as literature. The publisher, vibrating with excitement and commitment to the manuscript, resolves to translate it into commerce. That is, attempt to make new writing of suspected quality palatable to a large buyership (not simply readership), at least to sufficient individuals and institutions to justify printing, binding and selling the book. For most publishers still, even in our hard-bitten times with modest Public Lending Right a raging force in the land where authors live would prefer to make capital, in both senses, from literature than from candy-floss.

Is it better to be hanged for publishing *Fay Weldon* than *Jeffrey Archer*? Both authors, as it happens, are published by the same imprint and have the same catholic taste. This is the juggling reality of publishing today. *Fay Weldon* was, until quite recently, a member of the advisory literature panel of the Arts Council. *Jeffrey Archer* was not, and is not, and is unlikely to be. This is partly because the literature panel may not be with us much longer, partly because he does not write the kind of books that would make the panel members' heads spin. For those whose books sell in very large quantities tend neither to want to serve on such panels nor be invited to do so. They tend, too, not to have opinions about the work of their contemporaries.

The literature panel has been in existence for two decades, and has had only two directors. The first was Eric Walter White, author of a standard work on Benjamin Britten, then there was and is his one-time assistant, Charles Osborne, also better known for his writings on music. It has been fashionable to decry Mr Osborne, especially if you are the editor of a samizdat poetry magazine which has not found favour with the Arts Council or a poet

who cannot find a solvent publisher. The truth is that Mr Osborne should never have been appointed to the position of literature director because he utterly lacks the mentality of a bureaucrat. He has a healthy sense of humour, a disdain for the proselytizing of editors and authors with axes to grind and most important, he insists on making value-judgments.

What this all has to do with publishing is that the literature panel recently persuaded itself that much of its annual budget (in total less than one per cent of the Council's budget) should be spent not in subsidizing individual writers of genius or incompetence but in assisting publishers and booksellers in the marketing of their lists. Publishers, naturally, embraced this idea - which probably came from them - with alacrity. If they can use somebody else's money, even the tax-payers', to sell their product they will leap at it.

Mr Osborne may have construed the situation as follows: Down the years we seem, in spite of our best endeavours, to have doled out cash to hundreds of the wrong writers. This is a least in part because only they have applied. The better writers have not, mainly, been sponsored for grants. Presumably they are somehow making a living. Publishers do not seem to have been impressed by the fact that their writers have had Arts Council money, the public even less so.

Probably the most sensible way in which the Arts Council helps literature and readers out there is by organizing, in conjunction with regional arts associations, visits to different areas of the country by teams of three or four writers. This can be done on relatively small sums. Even if publishers were to be given £100,000 to help make new poetry more saleable, that is likely to be so much money down the drain. In twenty years the literature panel has hardly begun to get it right. This does not mean it should not go on trying to do so.

E. J. Craddock

Television

Trivial terrors

One Pair of Eyes (BBC 2) revealed the sordid secrets of the gossip-columnist. The subject of the documentary, Peter Hillmore of *The Observer*, describes his role as that of "making mischief" - in other words, reporting what people are really talking about (each other) rather than what they think they ought to be talking about (the great issues of the day).

Mr Hillmore is an intelligent and somewhat diffident man, which means that he experiences a great deal of difficulty in talking to the not so great and the hardly ever good. His life, as a result, seemed to be one of unrelieved misery, snubbed by other journalists, horribly abused by his deputy editor (a good cameo performance here by Anthony Howard), patronized by idiots and bores, and forced to attend parties which only the caterers find profitable. It was a terrible story, worthy of Balzac or at least Gissing - more terrible than anything Mr Hillmore has exposed in his column.

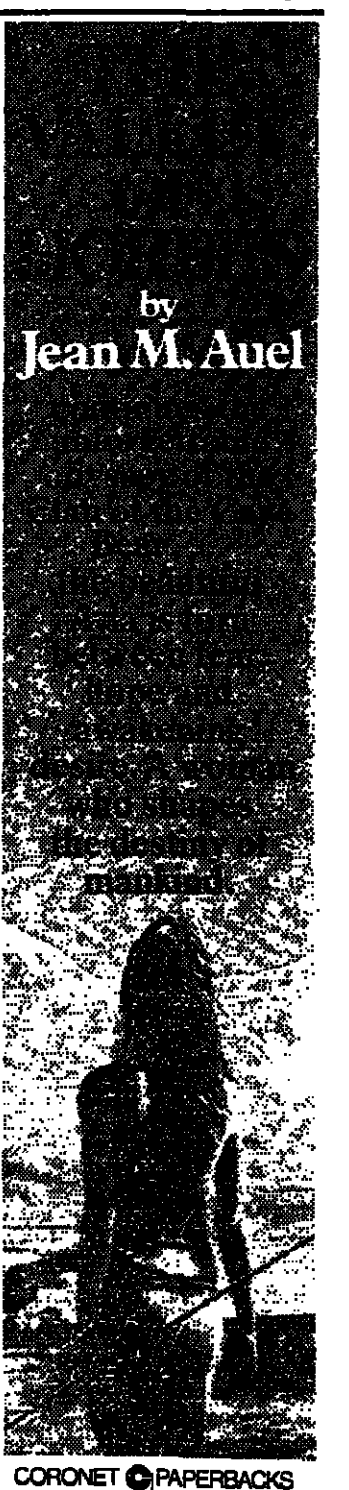
Those who delight in gossip will also find *It'll Be Alright on the Night* (LWT) rewarding. This is the programme in which various television "personalities" prove that there is a real person struggling beneath the make-up and the fixed smile. This anthology of "out-takes" (an ugly word which only pastiche experts could employ) is now so popular that television studios must deliberately manufacture verbal mistakes, prat-falls and collapsing props in order to appear on it; certainly the catastrophes tend to be the most interesting parts of their programmes.

Those who live by the camera are no doubt destined to die in front of it but, despite Denis Norden's gleeful suggestion that actors and newscasters are covered with rage and embarrassment at their mistakes, it was clear that everyone concerned enjoyed the experience. And why not? Anyone who appears on a news programme or serious television drama must feel an urgent need to laugh.

in the first place, the vengeance will eventually be theirs.

But Jeremy Maire, whose film it was, was really concerned with a larger subject - the nature of sound in Japanese civilization. This is a peculiarly amorphous theme, but it was a handled with a sureness of touch which avoided some of the more obvious longueries. If I hear another Japanese monk discoursing on the Nature of the One, however, I will scream. The extent of the gap between Japanese culture and our own was emphasized by one musicologist, who believes that the Japanese perceive music in the opposite hemisphere of the brain: perhaps that explains Yoko Ono.

Peter Ackroyd



CORONET PAPERBACKS

Sarah Walker (right) took a lot of persuading to accept the leading role in this week's revival of Britten's *Gloriana* at the Coliseum: interview by Hilary Finch

Making the voice fit for a queen

Preparing to decorate her dressing-room door with the legend "Privy Chamber, Nonsuch Palace," and sporting the appropriate badge from the National Portrait Gallery, Sarah Elizabeth Royle Walker was awaiting the gala opening tonight of English National Opera's revival of *Gloriana* and her debut in the role of the First Elizabeth.

It took ENO a long time to persuade her to do it. Few operas, after all, have kept the correspondence columns of *The Times* quite so busy on the occasion of their world premieres. There was resentment against Britten, confusion as to the requirements of a Coronation commission, and the disapproval of a "rigid" first night audience of civil servants and diplomats. All were focused in letters like those from Caryl Brahms or Marie Stopes in 1953, defending their own image of the Elizabethan legend. They were gently rebutted by the generosity of Anthony Lewis and Vaughan Williams.

It took Colin Graham's production, originally for Sadler's Wells in 1966, then twice revived at the Coliseum, to push the work forward. Did all of this conspire to delay Miss Walker's decision? "No, not at all. I just didn't think the role was right for me. I could hear the timbre of Joan Cross (Britten's original *Gloriana*) in my mind, and I knew my voice was much lighter and softer-grained. Not only is the tessitura very taxing, but the colour of the voice is wrong in the sense that a soprano can sing brighter vowels at the top than a mezzo can. And you could, just, call it a character part - and I thought that wasn't for me, either."

But there was, after all, the incentive of taking the opera to the Met in New York on the American tour. Once Sarah Walker had made her decision, she found her voice extending with the part, and with it, of course, her view of the role. She can claim, rather stubbornly, to find background reading unnecessary if the composer has done his job; and Britten, she feels, consummately has. But her conversation reveals her as a voracious reader of the period, digging into the subconscious of both Britten and his librettist, William Plomer, to find the



deeper and finer colours and tones of her suggestions. I asked her whether there really was such a strong conflict between the public and private figure in a work which constantly takes pains, in its libretto, to make the Queen distanced, acutely self-aware, almost intellectualizing her situation in verbal conceits and figures of speech.

Just as Essex and Elizabeth are intertwined throughout, in the music itself, so the private and public persons in Elizabeth are married within the music in such a way that it is impossible to separate them. For instance, there are constant paradoxes: a little instrumental group that could belong to Essex's turmoil but also belongs to Elizabeth's other side. You see something new every time you perform it.

And what about the much-quoted Queen's Dilemma in Act 3, which is expressed in such literary language: "I love, and yet am forced to seem to hate; I am, and am not; freeze and yet I burn; Since from myself my other self I turn?" "Oh yes, I do really feel that dilemma. You have to. The thing is to aim for a lot more tenderness and love in Essex in the earlier scenes. The beginning of the act - where Essex appears in her dressing-room, and she doesn't send him away - is incredibly powerful. Musically, one feels it so strongly at the end of that scene, just before the reprise of the lute-song, and if one carries that through in one's mind then the dilemma is real. Throughout her life, after all, Elizabeth was famous for equivocation, procrastination. It was the saving grace of her government, but it gave her a lot of private grief."

While making her Met debut as *Gloriana*, Sarah Walker will also be giving her first New York recital in two programmes with Roger Vignoles which reflect the Elizabethan theme. The first will include Benescu's Poems of Clement Marot ("be was Mary Stuart's favourite poet"), the Mary Stuart lullaby, Debussy and Nicholas Maw's song-cycle *The Song of Love*. That cycle will provide the thematic title of the second concert, with love and marriage in Schumann, love in the afternoon (Duparc and Bizet) and love in a cold climate (Grieg and Sibelius).

Royal Ballet
Covent Garden

Making his debut as a ballet conductor at Covent Garden last week, Elgar Howarth was confronted with a ragbag mixture of Paganini, Elgar's *Enigma Variations* (both those for Ashton's fine choreography) and Stravinsky's *The Wedding* - which the Royal Ballet persists in calling *Le Mariage* although *Swan Lake* would be a more logical title if they want a fancy foreign one, since it is now sung in Russian.

This last was the evening's most successful part, both as music and as dancing, in spite of the solo singers' voices seeming from my seat in the stalls, circle, overwhelmed by the chorus, pianists and percussion players. On stage, too, things were not quite perfect. The bride, Pippa Wyld, and Julian Hoskins were too remotely aloof for these rowdy peasant nuptials, and their parents notably long in the tooth.

Fortunately, the main weight of Nijinska's choreography is carried by the dancing chorus, whose pulsing energy made it easy to concentrate on its situation and not just imagine what this masterwork

could look like if everything about it matched their performance. Gontcharova's plain costumes in brown and off-white are also a never-failing pleasure to see, especially on this occasion after the fussy designing earlier in the evening. *Rhapsody* and *Enigma* were both better played than danced. In the latter, Ashton made roles for his original cast that transcended the trivial drama with intimations of social warmth and friendship. But, except for Antoinette Sibley's Dorabella (and even that lacks something of its initial radiance), the playing over the years has grown sentimental and unstable.

In *Rhapsody*, the dancing of one role, this time far transcended what we saw at the ballet's creation in 1980. The dancer, actually, was the same: Lesley Collier in the ballerina role, but a performance which was then merely neat, bright and musical has been polished beyond comparison so that it now glows and illuminates the choreography.

To replace Baryshnikov in the central role, however, is a tough assignment. Wayne Eagling's staccato energy and desperately contorted line are no substitute for the other's fluency and perfectly controlled explosions of power.

John Percival

Vino/Attree/
Monteverde
St John's

If this is the future, I can live with it. When concert halls become our churches and computers our music-makers, I hope the rituals turn out as diverting and undemanding as this offering by the New Macanaghten Concerts, when four giant screens placed themselves amid St John's baroque splendours and filled themselves with the colourfully sophisticated visual accompaniments of computer-generated music by Alejandro Vino and Richard Attree.

This was one of the Macanaghten's current "Transatlantic Connections" series, and the links in this case were with Buenos Aires, where Monteverde and Vino were born. But, like Attree, Vino has been working at the City University in London, and the skillful manipulation of computer resources in both their pieces was very striking. It compared favourably with anything I have heard from St John's and M.C.T. in the States. Vino's *Hendrix* did not need, apart from the sublimated twanging of guitars and the final flash of human song, to be heard as variations on Hendrix's "Purple Haze". But the visual images of haze, of diffuseness and sudden focus, of lines strung out across the screens pulsating in their bright, simple-minded colours, provided an apt accompaniment.

Booming unisons, obsessive percussive rhythms, chiming bells over low chanting, whinings and chattering in the background: the familiar kinds of synthesized sounds were here

put together into permutations which made more than a patchwork, "orchestrated" with a feeling for pacing and development. It was all more West Coast, USA, than East Coast - lie back, open your mind, and let the images work. There was equal musical fascination in the subtly contrived rhythms and minutely timed echoes of Richard Attree's *Dun-dun*, but there Monteverde chose to translate the constantly shifting pulses into images of the human body flashing from screen to screen: legs stretched, hands grasping. Visual effect was too closely matched to musical movement: it was faintly pathetic to hear the loudspeakers go "Bum-ti-bum" and to see just that fit across the screens in tempo.

Nicholas Kenyon

LPO/Loughran
Festival Hall

So it's off to the people's palace on the South Bank for the first of the joint GLC/Capital Radio promotions of Saturday Spring Classics, "Four Nights Out at Home and Abroad". Mr Pitt, of the GLC, bids us welcome to the programme. "It is the council's intention to introduce a more broadly based programme policy to the Halls.... Help us to keep the GLC working for music in London by signing the petition in the foyer". The petition sits near the notice advertising an "exciting new food service area" in course of installation.

Still, if someone's idea of Saturday night classics is John Ireland's Piano Concerto, things have not gone too far. Actually, Ireland's Concerto is not so much a classic as an ex-classic, a

Beggars Can't Be
Choosers
Albany Empire

John Turner's Thatcherite reworking of *The Beggar's Opera* evidently went down well in 1976, and here it is again with Falklands uniform now added to the beggling disguises and Polly Grass hoodwinking her parents with a Greenham rucksack when quitting the family nest for McFie's King's Cross parlour.

Gay's masterpiece has never lost its bite, but for some reason it resists adaptation. Even Brecht's version survives mainly through its songs. And the best I can say of *Beggars Can't Be Choosers* is that Mr Turner has a flair for one-liners: such as the whore's remark that she is still using the same stereotypes that her mother left hanging in the wardrobe, or the ecstatic shout with which the mendicant greet Grass's announcement that he is breaking open a fresh case of meths.

The point the show seems to be making is that any bright boy setting out on life's journey in 1984 would do better to choose corruption than crime (despite this, it is about choice). Thus Gay's hero is ignominiously downgraded into a pimp for whom there is no last-min-

ute reprieve (lacking the death penalty, the show does for him with ECT); while Grass's begging empire flourishes as a central pillar of the economy - unemployment being the one growth area - and wins its founder a Queen's Award for Poverty.

That overestimates the coherence of a show which consists largely of throwing in every trend figure - from headline feminists to bent coppers and leaving them to fight it out among themselves. Among other collisions, this involves Polly - armed with a Sussex degree in women's studies - in casting herself away on a chauvinist porn king; and the patriotic Grass firm in organizing a Royal Wedding riot. But it is not such outright contradictions that blunt your interest so much as the general lack of clear narrative direction, and the pounding dullness of Caroline Noh and Paul Astles's music.

Given the 'flu epidemic which has swept through the Combination company, Friday's performance was a gallant show, displaying one capable comedian (Didi Hopkins) and two fine dancers, Eamonn Walker and Alison Thérèse Limerick, who - given a better chance - could also sing the blues.

Irving Wardle

Concerts

Proms staple of a generation ago but fading fast. Philip Fowke, with dapper touch and easy facility, swung us into the delightful rhapsodies of the first movement, making it appear almost coherent at least until the final forced flourishes. I would have liked a rather deeper, resonant piano sound in the musing of the Lento, but Fowke's fingers glided over the keys effectively. Only the performance of *Monody for Corpus Christi* showed that the loss has been ours. Penelope Walmesley-Clark's fervent declamation made light of the difficulties in the angular soprano part, and allowed us to hear how strongly and surely Britwistle moves out of lullaby lament into a strident passion to spiritual rebirth. The importance of the exercise was also powerfully felt in the instrumental playing from the violinist Krystyna Osostowicz, the flautist Helen Keen and the hornist Stephen Stirling, all of them looping around the voice and rivaling even this singer's closely focused intensity.

After this a walk through ecstatic Hellene Holmér country with Henze's *Quattro fantasie* was just the ticket. In the second half, though, the roles were somewhat reversed, and it was Britwistle who provided the quieter voice in his mumbled Stravinsky memorial while Miss Walmesley-Clark returned to soar with fierce beauty through Henze's setting of a Rimbaud illumination, *Being Beautifous*. Varses's *Octandre* at the end, an appropriate invocation of one of Britwistle's closest antecedents, displayed all this ensemble's usual qualities of superb playing and commitment remaining to be harnessed by a comparable urgency in the direction.

Nicholas Kenyon

Endymion
Ensemble/Whitfield
St John's

Just as Ravel proved an effective antidote to Varses in the London Sinfonietta's recent festival, so the wounding splendour of early Harrison Britwistle was assuaged by our own master of the suave, Hans Werner Henze, in a compact programme given by the Endy-

mion Ensemble under John Whitfield. This was the second of four concerts the Endymion are mounting to honour Britwistle in his 50th year, and to provide a useful retrospective at a time when work on two operas, *The Mask of Orpheus* for the Coliseum and a northern pastoral for BBC Television, has tended to keep him out of the public gaze. The performance of *Monody for Corpus Christi* showed that the loss has been ours. Penelope Walmesley-Clark's fervent declamation made light of the difficulties in the angular soprano part, and allowed us to hear how strongly and surely Britwistle moves out of lullaby lament into a strident passion to spiritual rebirth. The importance of the exercise was also powerfully felt in the instrumental playing from the violinist Krystyna Osostowicz, the flautist Helen Keen and the hornist Stephen Stirling, all of them looping around the voice and rivaling even this singer's closely focused intensity.

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Paul Griffiths

Brenda Solomon is incurable.
Yet her laughter is infectious.

Brenda Solomon was training with Queen Alexandra's Nursing service when Multiple Sclerosis was diagnosed. As the symptoms grew worse, coping alone became impossible for her. So she came to the RHHI.

Now, though confined to a wheelchair, Brenda keeps busy. She speaks German and French, reads avidly and visits museums when possible. She enjoys the regular choir practice

and concerts at the hospital and she especially enjoys her physiotherapy session. "When I'm on the stretching bars," she says, "I feel ten feet tall!"

We have over 270 incurable patients like Brenda at the RHHI and we try to help them to regain as much independence as possible. Skilled nursing, therapy and medical attention help enormously. And our Research and Rehabilitation Wing examines and advances their long-term care.

We are a registered charity (No. 205907) and rely upon donations, covenants and legacies. Please help.

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Sukiaki and Chips (Channel 4) looked as if it might be another samurai epic - all helmets, gongs and war cries - but then a gaggle of Japanese teenagers were seen dancing to Western rock music, which was a more horrifying spectacle altogether. They were gyrating with a ferocity and obsessive-ness which strike terror into the hearts of less disciplined races.

This was at first a somewhat depressing documentary, since it seemed to concentrate on the tatter aspects of Japanese culture - computerized music, video games, laser discs. Whatever they do, they do it with a vengeance and since they created most of the technology



NBI

USM REVIEW

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

EVERY MONDAY

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

And so how did you spend your Sunday?

Take a break, for just a moment, from agonised speculation about the Budget. Consider an issue before the Government of greater importance to a large section of British industry. Should Sunday trading be legalized?

Now Thatcherite principles would seem to supply the Home Secretary with a much clearer answer to this than they can to the Chancellor's Budget problems. Restrictions on Sunday trading are a prime example of the pitfalls of detailed regulation. Exemptions have led to absurd anomalies. In England and Wales, you may sell soft porn but not Bibles on Sunday, for example, gin but not babies' milk powder. (In Scotland, there is no such prohibition on Sunday trading.) The law has fallen into such disrepute that it is haphazardly enforced.

Yet the Government has left reform to backbench MPs, whose Parliamentary bills have suffered a series of defeats. The latest was made more embarrassing by contrast with the reforming zeal of the House of Lords, which had just passed a bill legalizing Sunday trading. The Home Office has now side-tracked the issue to a committee of inquiry.

Today those doyens of the Institute of Economic Affairs, Lord Harris and Mr Arthur Seldon, publish their evidence to this committee. Evidence, my foot: this is a vintage IEA polemic, incoherent and good to read. Two quotes from Adam Smith, no less, denunciation of "the British disease" and "the new Luddism", and a passing swipe at the use of committees as a substitute for government action. Perhaps you have guessed that they think restrictions on Sunday trading should be abolished.

As one of the sources of Thatcherite doctrine, the IEA's present role (less welcome to the Government) is as a nagging guardian of the free-market faith. The retail trade has always been one of its main preoccupations. Its now famous Hobart Papers were launched, in 1960, with an attack on resale price maintenance.

In seeking to apply its own economic principles to the retail trade, the IEA found a fertile field - and little competition. Take the present inquiry. From both sides, the committee is being offered an extraordinary quantity of unproven or irrelevant "economic evidence".

The opponents of Sunday trading argue that it will increase total costs (because all traders will feel obliged to open) and since it will not increase total sales, profits will fall and prices go up. On the other hand, the supporters of deregulation argue that Sunday opening will stimulate retail sales, reduce costs (because facilities will be used more fully) and hence raise profits and reduce prices.

Both arguments are pretty thin. Not all retail groups feel obliged to make use of the present freedom to open on Saturday afternoons - so why should Sunday become compulsory? On the other hand, even if total sales did rise when what is known in the trade as the "Sunday pound" became easier to spend, the money would be diverted from other outlets or from savings - with effects elsewhere in the economy.

A more comprehensive answer, advanced with much relish by the IEA, is that it is simply not part of the Home Office's job either to direct the pattern of consumption or to tell shopkeepers how to run their businesses. If Sunday trading turns out to be unprofitable, they can decide themselves not to open. There is consumer demand for Sunday shopping -

and this should be the start and finish of that part of the debate.

But there are other issues involved. The unions argue that Sunday opening would accelerate the trend towards less full-time employment in retailing, which has been only partly compensated for by an increase in part-time work. One notable opponent of Sunday trading - the John Lewis partnership - has compiled evidence admitted even by the IEA. Shop floor space has increased about 30 per cent since the mid-1960s, but the number of full-time employees in retailing has fallen by about half a million. The number of part-timers has risen by only about 200,000 since 1961, with the fastest rise among those working eight hours a week or less.

It is not hard to see why the TUC does not like to see a shift towards non-unionized part-time employment. (There is also a passage in its evidence on the increase in women's employment, which would merit feminist attention.) But it does have good points to make on the security and pension disadvantages of part-time work. These, however, are general trends for other government departments to consider. It would be ludicrous to try and manipulate employment and social security trends by such a remote lever as Sunday trading rules.

They are more relevant to another social trend. Employment has fallen as floor space has risen because trade has shifted to the big shops. The new generation of corner shops exists, on narrow profit margins, largely by opening at hours when the multiples are closed. Uneven application of Sunday trading law enables them to trade more freely than the big stores. If Sunday trading were legalized, more business might pass to the big boys.

The Government does have an important social interest in preserving small, local shops for the benefit of community life, the elderly and those without cars. Unfair application of law is an indefensible system of support. So it is argued that the law should be changed to permit only small shops to open on Sundays. This is the sort of compromise the IEA would castigate, and with some justice. From the consumer's point of view, direct subsidies or rate reductions for local community shops would be better than a restriction of competition. Is it an alternative the Government should be prepared to consider?

Which leaves the committee with the central issue - and one on which it is least able to act as a substitute for the Government and Parliament.

It is not, of course, at all obvious that Sunday shopping would wedge open other industries to seven-day activity (try posting a letter or ringing the telephone engineers at a weekend if you think every section of British industry is as keen to extend a seven-day service to its customers).

Attitudes are not so easy to analyse. They do seem to be changing. An NOP poll in yesterday's *Mail on Sunday* showed 78 per cent in favour of some Sunday trading, a higher proportion than in some previous polls. On the other hand, roughly half of those polled were still in favour of some Sunday restrictions. Here again, a committee can collect the figures - but it is the Government, when it has finished, that must grasp the nettle. And if there is a social science to be played in aid, it is psychology - not economics.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Defeat for oil companies as BNOC keeps its powers

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

A year-long review of the Government's system for fixing British oil prices has resulted in a defeat for the big North Sea oil producers led by Esso.

The Department of Energy will shortly announce officially that the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) will retain an automatic right to buy at least 51 per cent of all crude oil produced in the North Sea and to fix prices at quarterly intervals.

Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, has already told Parliament that BNOC has an important role to play in oil price stability and that there are no plans to alter its status.

The review of BNOC's role was launched a year ago by Mr Nigel Lawson, then Energy Secretary. It was completed some weeks ago and has now been studied by the Department of Energy.

Esso, backed by BP and Shell,

who will both announce large profits this coming Thursday, partly due to continuing high North Sea output, had argued that the reasons which led to BNOC being set up were no longer valid.

The oil companies argue that BNOC as a state-owned body was faced with an "almost impossible" trading role by having to buy large amounts of oil on long-term contracts and often sell it on short-term contracts.

However, BNOC's role in getting the best price possible for British oil has been vindicated in recent weeks, the Government feels. Its price-leading role which the oil companies criticize as "inappropriate" has led to a period of price stability and increasing North Sea output when world demand has fallen.

Some oil company opponents



Peter Walker: no plans to alter BNOC's status.

of BNOC now privately admit that the state corporation's ability to hold up prices at the end of last year has also influenced world prices and allowed the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

(Opec) to present a united front at a time when its structure was under threat.

BNOC is now handling almost 1.5 million barrels of North Sea oil a day as output reaches record levels of 2.5 million barrels a day. About a third of the oil bought up by BNOC is sold back to the producers, who have their own refining capacity, with the remainder being traded on the open market.

Ironically, Esso and Shell are probably BNOC's biggest customers.

The review of BNOC shows that the big oil companies are unlikely to court government hostility in future negotiations, such as the forthcoming ninth round of North Sea licences, by rejecting the BNOC price, although in theory they could do so.

Put freer trade first, says Midland

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

The chief benefits of the Government's privatization policy will come from the liberalisation of trade and increased competition rather than the transfer of ownership, Midland Bank says in a survey published today.

"It follows that if the objectives of liberalisation and the transfer of ownership are in conflict, as is increasingly likely to be the case, priority should be given to liberalisation. Moreover, measures to promote competition should almost always be preferred to regulation."

The study of privatization, included in the latest *Midland Bank Review*, lists among recent important liberalisation initiatives the Transport Act, 1980, which deregulated express coach services, the Telecommunications Act, 1981, which permits connection of approved equipment to the British Telecom network, proposals to sell optical services other than through registered opticians and the permission granted to private minibuses in London.

The arguments in favour of liberalisation rather than those for preferring private to public ownership are advocated by the bank.

Elsewhere in the *Review*, the bank's retiring chief economist, Mr Dick Sargent, urges an expansionary Budget to sustain demand in the face of a wily consumer boom later this year. Such action would need to be supported by supply side measures such as abolition of the national insurance surcharge, the *Review* says.

Three out of four top businessmen believe unions should make more efforts to persuade employers to draw on their members' practical knowledge of working methods. This is part of the findings of a survey in which 296 managing directors throughout industry provide their own blueprint for union reform. The survey was conducted by the magazine *Chief executive*.

Wedd agrees Barclays link-up

By Jeremy Warner

The revolution in the City will gather pace today when Barclays Bank announces its intention of linking up with Wedd and De Zoete, but it is likely that the Stock Exchange will comment that this will be lifted in a discussion paper on the structure of the market due at the end of this month.

News of the link comes less than a week after Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, indicated in a speech on the City's financial institutions, that the development of a system of dual capacity for share dealing had the Bank's approval. He congratulated the readiness of the Stock Exchange members to contemplate and effect the transition to a substantially different dealing system.

The Barclays move is expected to speed the development of other integrated share dealing groups. Midland Bank, through its 60 per cent owned merchant banking offshoot,

Barclays would be barred under the current rules from owning an interest in both Wedd and De Zoete, but it is likely that the Stock Exchange will comment that this will be lifted in a discussion paper on the structure of the market due at the end of this month.

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Samuel Montagu, is widely believed to be putting the finishing touches to plans to buy up to 29.9 per cent of W Greenwell, a leading stockbroker firm.

National Westminster Bank has already announced its intention of "acquiring a substantial interest" in Bisgood, Bishop, London's fifth largest stockbroker, and S. G. Warburg, the merchant bank, is acquiring an equity interest in Akroyd & Smithers, another stockbroking firm.

Established a link with the stockbroker Rowe & Pitman in international dealing and the Barclays announcement is expected to accelerate the development of this tripartite grouping.

● CANADIAN BANK: Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is filing, with securities authorities across Canada, a short form preliminary prospectus for an offering of preferred shares. The formal offer is expected this month.

CBI counts cost of doing business in Far East

By Our Industrial Correspondent

The senior manager of a British company working in Japan could expect to be paid more than £34,000 a year, £10,000 more than his counterpart in Singapore, but he would have to pay £41 for a kilo of best steak against only £8 in Singapore.

The Confederation of British Industry's latest survey of living costs in Asia published today and regarded as essential reading for companies intending to set up shop in the east,

highlights the glaring disparities in a wide variety of costs that would be incurred in 13 countries, ranging from Bangladesh to Thailand.

The CBI says that an average weekly food bill for an expatriate family in Tokyo would be £192. This compares with £256 in South Korea and £310 in Singapore, both countries where salaries are lower.

Entertaining, however, is very expensive in Japan.

Mr Clive Thornton's decision to remove himself from the day-to-day running of Mirror Group Newspapers is causing some concern among directors and senior staff.

Mr Thornton was brought in as Mirror Group chairman last year when he departed as chairman of the Abbey National Building Society. The Mirror is being packaged for a stock market flotation from its parent company, Reed International.

As part of this, Mr Thornton has created a two-tier management structure. There will be two separate boards, one for the Scottish and one for the English newspapers, neither of which Mr Thornton will head.

Instead, he will be chairman of the holding company board, once removed from the detailed decision making of the newspaper group. Chairmanship of the English board will go to Mr Tony Miles, the current editorial director.

Sources close to the company say the move has caused ill-feeling among some directors

Japan faces pressure to cut surplus

By John Lawless

The Japanese are under increasing pressure to cut their trade surplus, with their current account surplus predicted to soar to at least \$30 billion in the next financial year.

They are anxious to show to the British, whom they regard as their most important free trade ally within the European Community, that they are now genuinely trying to try to promote imports of manufactured goods.

They have agreed to advance tariff cuts, but EEC has been unable to do so because they move was blocked by economically pressed France.

British exports to Japan went up by 17 per cent in 1983, to reach £797m, twice the global increase in United Kingdom sales.

Japanese exports in the opposite direction, however, went up by 27 per cent, or by £716m, to reach £3,374m.

What is causing considerable concern in Whitehall is that the largest part of the United Kingdom exports increase came from non-job creating areas. Liquefied propane and butane, for example, went from almost nothing in 1982 to £30m last year. Japanese users of aluminium bought £11m of waste and scrap from Britain.

Exports of British chemicals and pharmaceuticals also increased by £21m. Whisky increased by only £1.7m to £70m.

Japan's car exports went up from £402m to £16m. Data processing machines rose from £172m to £327m and peripherals for them went up from just £34m to £109m. Exports of electrical machines increased in the year from £200m to £310m.

A team of Japanese financial experts begin talks in London today to find ways in which Tokyo's financial straitjacket can be gradually eased. The talks are being coordinated by the Keidanren, Japan's equivalent of the CBI and the party of 13 is being led by the former ambassador to London.

Shell set for £500m rise

A busy week for company news will be dominated on Wednesday and Thursday by a full years results from five of Britain's biggest companies - Royal Dutch Shell Group, British Petroleum, GKN, TI and BTR.

Analysts expect Shell to deliver net income of about £2.5 billion against £2 billion last year, while British Petroleum is also expected to see its new profits rise from £716m last year to around £850m.

The market will be looking for evidence in the results of BTR that the industrial conglomerate is making progress with Thomas Tilling, which it acquired last summer with the boast that it could manage the assets better than the existing directors. At the pretax level, profits are expected to rise from £106.7m last time to about £170m-£175m.

ECONOMIC DIARY

TODAY: Provisional producer-price index for February; provisional February retail sales.
TUESDAY: The Budget; January index of output of the production industries; fourth quarter construction output; building societies' figures for February.
WEDNESDAY: Average earnings index; employment; hours worked and unit wage costs (January, provisional).
THURSDAY: Final money supply details for February.
FRIDAY: Public sector borrowing requirement for February; retail prices index, tax and price index for February.

STOCK EXCHANGES

(Change on week)
FT-SE 100 Index: 1060.1 down 0.6
FT Index: 840.9 up 2.0
FT Gilts: 83.14 up 0.02
FT All Share: 501.35 down 0.14
Bargains: 24,010
Datastream US\$ Leaders
NEW YORK: 108.4 up 0.28
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: 1136.76 down 31.72
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,977.22 up 48.74
Amsterdam: 169.7 down 0.6

CURRENCIES

(Change on week)
LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
\$1.4605 down 205pts
Index 80.8 down 1.5
DM 3.77 down 0.06
Yen 11.8125 down 0.1775
Yen 327.50 up 10.5
Dollar
Index 125.6 unchanged
DM 2.5780 down 0.0017
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4630
Dollar DM2.5842
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.582605
SDR £0.727657

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8½-9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9½
3 month interbank 9½-9¾
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10½-10¾
3 month DM 5½-5¾
3 month Fr 15½-15¾
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9½
Treasury long bond 9½-9¾
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme - IV Average discount rate for interest period February 8 to March 6, 1984 inclusive: 9.373 per cent.

GOLD

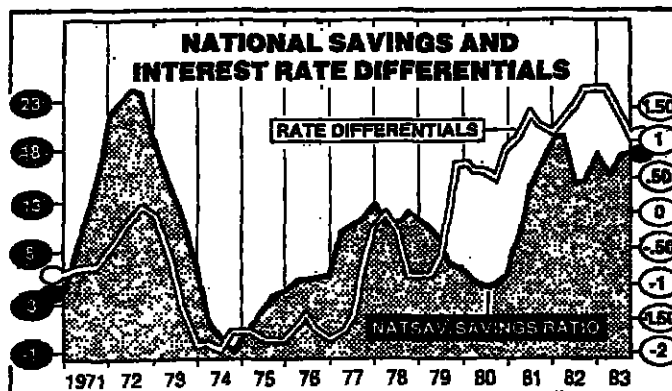
London fixed (per ounce):
am \$402.00 pm \$399.50
close \$401.50-402 (£275-275.50)
New York (latest): \$400.75
Kruggerand (per oz): \$414.41-50 (£283.50-284.50)
Sovereigns (new): \$94-95 (£64.25-65)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

● Recovery is spreading more widely through Scotland's business sectors and more sustained than many had predicted, declares Mr John Risk, the chairman of CBI Scotland, in a report out today, covering a year in the region's economy.
However, he adds that "Scottish realism" demands that two important facts be recognized. First, unemployment, at best, can only be expected to take a modest fall in 1984; two, much still depends of factors outside business control. Mr Risk believes that the inevitable restructuring of Scottish industry is not yet complete "and, some painful decisions remain to be made."

Substantial change likely in public sector funding

Michael Jankowski



growth. What they will need to do in future is stem the flow of savings into building societies. The best way to accomplish this is by introducing new national savings vehicles that are attractive relative to building societies and bank deposits. The chart plots the proportional flow of savings (solid line) into national savings against the gross interest rate differential between national savings and building society shares. National savings inflows respond favourably to positive interest rate differentials.

The only period where this relationship broke down was in 1979/80, a period when interest rates were very high and the relative attraction of bank deposits (which paid interest gross) was significant. With banks having to pay interest net of tax in future while building societies will probably need to widen their lending margins (as a result of changed tax treatment of their gilt-edged transactions) national savings will stand out as a clear favourite.

PSL2 has been growing faster than other measures of money and will continue to do so in 1984. The levels of funding, consequently will need to be much larger. The change in the balance of funding will, however, allow gilt-edged funding to be much lower than over the past 12 months. The supply/demand balance in the market is, therefore, expected to favour a rise in prices over the year.

Shorter term, the conditions are less clear. The recent sharp sell-off in the US bond market has significantly brought the gilt market closer to the point where longer-dated conventional gilts cease to be relatively attractive. Ten to 15-year gilt-edged stocks, however, will continue to remain relatively attractive even if the US bond market deteriorates further. Worries that the next move in US interest rates will be up, however, may have an adverse impact on sterling and the gilt-edged market. The international risk factor in the gilt market has increased since I last wrote.

In contrast, the Budget is expected to produce words and intentions that will be supportive of the market. A cut in public sector borrowing coupled with a reduction in the target rates of monetary growth will reaffirm the Government's commitment to contain inflationary pressures. The perception that there will be a shift in the Government's funding pattern, away from gilts, should also put the market better.

The delicate balance between favourable domestic and unfavourable international factors suggests a strategy that incorporates more protection than would normally need in a market where domestic factors were positive. I expect to see an improving market over the next month, but would also advise investors to ensure that they have some downside protection.

Attractive

Fundamentally, the 20-year area of the market is most vulnerable to negative international factors, but is also likely to respond best in the initial stages of a market rise. It just happens that there exists a convertible stock, the Treasury Convertible 9½ per cent 1988 and Exchequer 10 per cent 1989 attractive. For income taxpayers, serious consideration of the index-linked market must be made. The rate of inflation over the next few years to justify the holding of non index-linked stocks would need to be between 2½-3½ per cent for lower rates if one compares the stocks in the 1988 and 1990 area of the market. These rates are below even the most optimistic of expectations; consequently, Treasury 2 per cent 1988 and 2 per cent 1990 index-linked stocks are very attractive if you plan to tie up money for the next four-to-six years.

The sharp adjustment in relative prices following the decision by the Inland Revenue to alter the tax treatment of building society gilt-edged transactions also created some interesting situations. In particular, corporate or higher rate taxpayers who can keep their funds tied up for a year would find the Treasury 3 per cent 1985 extremely attractive with the ability to lock in up to 2 per cent in profit on borrowed money.

In the longer-dated area of the market, the following stocks are cheap: Exchequer 12 per cent 1994; Treasury 12 per cent 1995; Treasury 15½ per cent 1998 and Exchequer 12½ per cent 1999 while investors should consider selling Exchequer 13½ per cent 1996, Treasury 14 per cent 1998/2001 and Treasury 11½ per cent 2001/2004. The best stock on a risk/return basis over the next month is the Treasury Convertible 10 per cent 1986.

The author is gilt-edged economist at Simon & Coates, the stockbroker.

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ORDINARY SHARES

Paradox on the high seas

Dan White

For some years now, the investing public has had an ambivalent attitude towards the shipping industry. Much publicity has been given to the deep-rooted problems of the industry and yet the share prices of the leading stocks are now reaching new highs.

Nearly everyone is familiar with the prolonged and severe slump in the tanker market, which has lasted for a decade now. Currently, 38.7 million tons, or 20 per cent of the fleet, is laid up despite 24.7 million tons having gone to scrap in 1983. Rates remain very depressed and the tonnage surplus is almost twice the lay-up figure, when slow-steaming (sailing at well below the design speed) is taken into account.

There is an awareness, too, that the crisis has spread to other sections of the industry. The problems of the dry bulk operators have surfaced in the financial results of such quoted British companies as Lyle Shipping and Reederei Schiffahrt. Where not only are losses being recorded but financial restructuring has become necessary. Though only 6.5 per cent of the dry cargo fleet is currently in lay-up and demand has not fallen to the same extent as the tanker trades, rates are also very depressed and the large order book, which will ensure an expansion in the fleet of some 20 per cent in the next two years, suggests that they will remain so.

The previously relatively stable cargo liner trades, mainly containerized or semi-containerized now, have also run into problems.

Historically, much of these trades has been based on the former imperial trading routes so far as British companies are concerned and has enjoyed the protection of a reasonably ordered market under the umbrella of the conference system, which has secured rates based on cost-plus in return for regular scheduled services. Profits in the cargo liner trades peaked, however, in 1977 when Opec imports were running high and port congestion in the Gulf, West Africa and elsewhere

all helped to reduce the effective supply of tonnage and increase shipowners' profits. Though the cargo liner trades are always subject to specific regional influences, there has been a marked reversal in profitability since the late 1970s. The profits of OCL (owned jointly by P & O, Ocean Transport and British and Commonwealth) will have more than halved in 1983 since 1977, and Ocean Transport's West African trades are in substantial loss, having provided more than a quarter of group profits in the past. It is not only the recession or the downturn in Opec imports but the rise in competition from the national flag operators of the developing countries such as South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore or even Nigeria, which has served to undermine the market structure.

The British operators foresee to some extent the trends and some initially tried to counter this by moving into specialized and high value added trades, such as gas shipping or the cruise market, where the benefits of the low operating costs of other flags are less pronounced. This, however, has proved a mixed blessing. The large capital sums involved have put a severe financial strain on some companies. Ocean Transport is still paying dearly for its investment in a £60m LNG carrier which has never carried a cargo since delivery in 1977, and it was P & O's £130m-plus investment in four LPG ships which has been largely responsible for the policy of retrenchment since 1979.

The cruise market has generally been a rather more profitable experience, but these are costly ships with the consequent risks. P & O's new cruise liner, The Royal Princess, will, for example, cost over £1,200m when delivered at the end of this year.

Nor are the underlying pressures on the industry likely

to decrease markedly, despite the pick up in demand now in evidence on some trades, especially on those with the US and in the Pacific and the current good experience of the cruise market. The unpalatable truth is that, behind the shipping industry, there is a ship-building industry with a capacity to deluge the market at any time. This industry is based mainly in the Far East, which boasts the world's two largest shipbuilding capacities, accounting for over half the world total.

Some developing economies, such as Spain or Brazil, have also sizable shipbuilding capacity. The attraction of shipbuilding to these countries is that it represents a means of enlarging steel-making capacity in the form of exporting steel as ships. Governments are therefore much involved, especially in the form of subsidized finance. It is all too easy to order a ship, with the consequence that oversupply is chronic in most sectors.

In addition, the industry is adversely affected by long-term demand trends, notably in the decrease in both energy and steel intensity in the products and economies of the industrialized nations. This has been exacerbated by the recession, of course, but it will limit the extent of the upturn and future growth.

Against this dismal background, it may come as a shock to realize that the shipping section was the tenth best performing sector over the past year. This performance does mask a divergent performance between the smaller, pure shipping companies - nearly all of which have substantially underperformed over the year - and the large groups, which have all outperformed the market.

The reasons for the relatively good performance of the majors are: 1 They are all, with the probable exception of Ocean Transport, still profitable; 2

They are all diversified - British Commonwealth is now a holding company, where interests in investment management, helicopters, data transmission etc are more important than shipping, and even P & O, Ocean and European ferries have substantial and growing non-shipping interests; 3 The market was ready to invest in cyclical areas early in 1983 after the massive performance of the growth sectors such as defence, electronics or pharmaceuticals in previous years; 4 The Trafalgar House bid for P & P, which was made in May 1983.

The Trafalgar House bid, in fact, accurately reflected the attractions and the problems of the quoted shipping sector. As a capital intensive industry, earnings per share are of less importance than cash flow and asset values, given that the shipping assets can, in most cases, be readily marketed. Earnings are, however, highly cyclical, but Trafalgar House was attracted to a share price standing at less than half the realizable net worth and a price/cash flow ratio of 3 at a low stage of the cycle, in addition to the management and rationalization benefits it could bring.

The market awaits the outcome of this bid, following referral to the Monopolies Commission. It is encouraging that there is an air of renewed dynamism in the industry, inspired by the Trafalgar House bid and the consequent rise to prominence of Mr Jeffrey Stirling at P & O, but the outperformance of the sector over the past year means that much expectation is now being reflected.

Overall, there is no need to hurry to take profits. The recent speculative rise could have further to go. At these levels, however, there is no compelling reason to rush in to buy, despite the justifiable optimism as to the potential impact of the new breed of managers and the restructuring of the industry which now seems likely.

The author is head of research at Laurence, Pratt and Co in New York.

USM REVIEW

Flextech comes under fire as fears grow over share price

Flextech, the energy-related investment group, appears to be falling short of earlier expectations and is attracting growing criticism from shareholders over the poor performance of the share price.

Last week the share continued to languish at 101p, just 3p above the low and showing few signs of making up the lost ground. Flextech joined the Unlisted Securities Market in a blaze of publicity last September and was hailed as the next winner from the venture-capital stable of stockbroker Cazenove.

Cazenove and Flextech's adviser, Investors in Industry, were certainly anxious to ensure that the shares were well received. The cost of bringing Flextech to the USM was £523,000, but had the desired effect. The four million shares offered at 140p attracted at least £162m from investors, with the entire issue oversubscribed more than 28 times.

This was in spite of the health warning carried by the shares in the prospectus, which warned investors of the financial risk involved in investments in start-ups and new technology.

During the first few weeks of trading the price hit a high of 171p, but in January the shares began to lose ground rapidly - sliding almost 40p in the space of three days alone.

This prompted the board of Flextech to rush out the interim figures almost a month early to try to stem the flow of sellers. But, in addition to showing pretax profits up from £718,000 to £836,000, the statement showed that Corflexip, the French manufacturer of flexible pipe for the oil industry, in which Flextech has a big stake, had fallen down on two of its contracts. Corflexip's profits contribution to Flextech had risen from £223,000 to £332,000, but had been struck after a provision totalling £258,000.

Mr Robert Johnson, Flextech's managing director and a former partner with Cazenove, said: "This is just one of those things in high technology that can go wrong."

But the loss of the two contracts, which are not specified in the announcement, have cast a shadow over the whole development, and tests are being carried out by Corflexip to assess the damage. Further provisions are expected, but these will not be known until the tests are completed. Flextech is unable to say when this might be.

As a result, the shares remain unattractive and dealers are worried that they will continue to drift lower until the full extent of the provisions are known.

USM prices tables are on page 16

The setback has also resulted in strong criticism of Cazenove's role in the affair. A few weeks ago the jobbers called for an emergency meeting to discuss the situation with the firm, but the subsequent rally proved short-lived and those investors who bought the shares at the original offer price are now left nursing losses of around 30 per cent on their original investment.

The groans of the jobbers could be heard all round the market last week as shares of Stephen Mark's French Connection continued to enjoy its recent re-rating. The shares closed on Friday at 251p - a rise on the week of 14p having hit a high of 260p earlier in the week. The fact that the shares opened at a discount to the 123p placing price last autumn has now been forgotten as investors continue to chase the price higher in a pitifully thin market. Clearly developments are moving fast for Mr Mark's exclusive fashion house which

appears to be taking America by storm. But despite the strong growth in the shares, the experts believe there is still some way to go before they peak. Close observers are predicting the shares will hit at least 300p before the summer collection is cleared from the racks.

Brokers Griesevon, Grant, which brought French Connection to market, has just published its March review of the USM containing several strong buy recommendations. It points out that the USM has not been left behind by the latest record-breaking run of the full equity market. The DataStream USM Index has moved to a new high almost nine points above a low of 101 in the early part of last month. Recent figures from companies like Acorn Computers and Micro Focus showing increases in pretax profits of 156 per cent and 175 per cent respectively have added credence to the evidence that the USM is achieving the task it was designed for.

More than a dozen companies joined the USM in February, and only one of them, Xyllyx, opened at a discount. This, says Griesevon, was due to bad timing. Xyllyx's market debut followed close on the heels of the suspension of dealings in Immediate Business Systems, which has had its fair share of problems recently, culminating in details of a £2.5m rights issue on Friday. The shares resumed trading at 43p and closed at 45p, 13p below the suspension price.

High on Griesevon's shopping list are CPS Computers, the distributor of IBM computers and equipment, and Laurence Gould, the agricultural consultant. Griesevon says CPS offers extremely good value at the placing price of 67p.

Laurence Gould's British business has been rapidly overhauled by its overseas arm, ULG, now accounting for 80 per cent of turnover. Along with its recently acquired Belgian subsidiary, ULG looks set for increased growth.

Michael Clark

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	11 1/2%
Continental	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Not Westminister	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

7 day deposit rates of 10.000, 11.000, 12.000, 13.000, 14.000, 15.000, 16.000, 17.000, 18.000, 19.000, 20.000, 21.000, 22.000, 23.000, 24.000, 25.000, 26.000, 27.000, 28.000, 29.000, 30.000, 31.000, 32.000, 33.000, 34.000, 35.000, 36.000, 37.000, 38.000, 39.000, 40.000, 41.000, 42.000, 43.000, 44.000, 45.000, 46.000, 47.000, 48.000, 49.000, 50.000, 51.000, 52.000, 53.000, 54.000, 55.000, 56.000, 57.000, 58.000, 59.000, 60.000, 61.000, 62.000, 63.000, 64.000, 65.000, 66.000, 67.000, 68.000, 69.000, 70.000, 71.000, 72.000, 73.000, 74.000, 75.000, 76.000, 77.000, 78.000, 79.000, 80.000, 81.000, 82.000, 83.000, 84.000, 85.000, 86.000, 87.000, 88.000, 89.000, 90.000, 91.000, 92.000, 93.000, 94.000, 95.000, 96.000, 97.000, 98.000, 99.000, 100.000, 101.000, 102.000, 103.000, 104.000, 105.000, 106.000, 107.000, 108.000, 109.000, 110.000, 111.000, 112.000, 113.000, 114.000, 115.000, 116.000, 117.000, 118.000, 119.000, 120.000, 121.000, 122.000, 123.000, 124.000, 125.000, 126.000, 127.000, 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CRICKET: TOURING TEAM MOVE ON TO THE 'REAL' PAKISTAN

Charges under TCCB scrutiny

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

Lahore

For the second time in 48 hours Alan Smith, manager of the England team, was obliged to answer allegations here yesterday concerning the off-the-field conduct of some of his players. This time the story in the *Mail* Sunday linking certain members of the team with drug-taking and general badness in New Zealand.

Smith said that the Test and County Cricket Board in conjunction with team officials, would be examining "these damaging and serious charges." He himself had had only extracts from the relevant article read out to him. "With the limited information I now have," he said, "I believe some of the allegations are just not true," adding that "certain matters may well now be under judicial review."

The manager's confidence that "some" of the allegations are unfounded could be taken to imply that others may not be. On the other hand, some of those who have been made aware of them to be of little consequence.

The manager's confidence that "some" of the allegations are unfounded could be taken to imply that others may not be. On the other hand, some of those who have been made aware of them to be of little consequence.

Tall task for England in a place of tall Test scores

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

Lahore

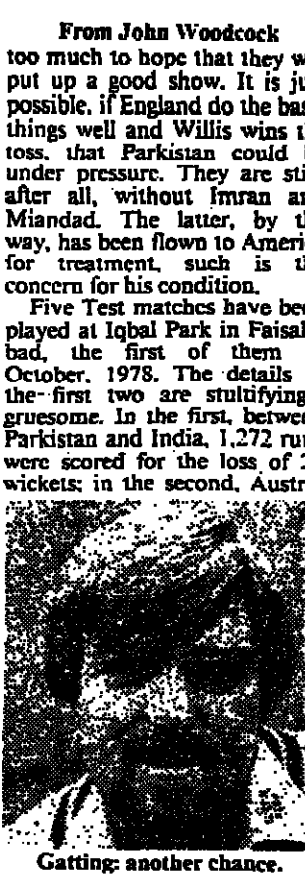
The second of England's Test matches in Pakistan begins in Faisalabad today. The England team travelled there yesterday afternoon by coach from Lahore, with several of them under the weather. Willis, Tavaré, Cowans and Dilley all felt as though they might be sickening for something, though the physiotherapist was hopeful that except for Cowans, who has a strained groin, they would be fit by today.

Even with a full team in top form, England's task would be formidable. Except when they lost to West Indies in 1980-81, Pakistan have made a habit of compiling huge totals at Faisalabad.

There being no way that a replacement for Botham could have arrived in time to play in more than the last Test match (March 19 to 24) and the last one-day international (March 26), a decision was taken not to send for one. To keep the batting anything like up to strength, England will have to rely on Gating as their fifth bowler, though on the tour so far has taken only two wickets.

Foster will probably come in place of Cowans, and if Fowler (or Tavaré) goes in first with Smith, Gating, who opened in Karachi, will be able to drop back down the order. Fowler might live up to the running between wickets, and as a left-hander he should, in theory, find Abdul Qadir's leg breaks less of a problem than the right-handers.

In adversity that I have seen English sides give some of their best performances, and although the chances of a victory in Faisalabad seem telescopically remote, it is not



Gating: another chance.

too much to hope that they will put up a good show. It is just possible, if England do the basic things well and Willis wins the toss, that Pakistan could be under pressure. They are still, after all, without Imran and Miandad. The latter, by the way, has been flown to America for treatment, such is the concern for his condition.

Five Test matches have been played at Iqbal Park in Faisalabad, the first of them in October, 1978. The details of the first two are stuffily gruesome. In the first, between Pakistan and India, 1,272 runs were scored for the loss of 21 wickets; in the second, Australia and India by 10 wickets.

Australia were bowled out twice by Qadir (92.4 - 26 - 216 - 11) after Pakistan had declared at 501 for six; India were bowled out twice by Imran, Pakistan making 652 between the first and the second. In this last match Pakistan's Nos 4 (Miandad), 5 (Zahner), 6 (Saleem Malik) and 7 (Imran) scored hundreds.

In days gone by, when MCC teams left Perth for Adelaide, whether by train or on a flight which used to take most of the night, they would be told that they were off to see the real Australia. Until then they had seen only Perth.

In a sense, the England players will be getting their first taste this week of the real Pakistan. They have stayed until now in luxury hotels, where location has been revealed only by a glance out of the window.

Except that the players will be having their meals sent up from Lahore, they will find in Faisalabad no such ostentation. There, there is no escaping the bald essence of the place.

With the pitches being what they were, and usually still are, and the umpiring what it was and usually still is, patience and a sense of humour helped and still do. Some difficult days lie ahead - at Lord's as well as here, perhaps.

John puts Kiwis in a flap

Kandy (AFP). - Vinohthan John, the Sri Lankan medium pace bowler, took five for 82 off 29.1 overs to keep New Zealand's total down to 276 in the first Test here yesterday. At the end of the day Sri Lanka had replied with 30 for two.

New Zealand, continuing from their overnight total of 120 for two, lost Wright in the last ball of the first over trapped leg before by John for 45. The other overnight batsman Reid and Martin Crowe wrested some initiative when they added 41 runs for the third wicket, before Reid was caught by Kaluperuma off Amarasinghe for 26.

New Zealand took two wickets in one over after lunch when Ranatunga first hit clean bowler Smith for 30 and then two batters later had Cairns caught behind for 10. Ranatunga completed his job by taking a fine catch at long on to dismiss Hadlee for 29, which gave John his fifth wicket. Two runs later it was all over for New Zealand when Bracewell was caught off John by de Silva.

Marsh flies off the handle

Perth, Western Australia (AFP). - Rodney Marsh, holder of the world Test wicketkeeping record of 355 wickets, was in trouble with officialdom again during his last appearance in first class cricket.

Marsh was reported by the umpires yesterday after he had hurled his bat in the air during the Sheffield Shield final between Western Australia and Queensland.

Peter McConnell and Mel Johnson, the umpires, reported Marsh, for "showing dissent by hitting the pitch and throwing the bat."

The incident occurred after Marsh's batting partner, Geoff Marsh, had been bowled by Jeff Thomson, Queensland captain and former Test fast bowler.

Rodney Marsh, angry that McConnell did not call a no ball, slammed his bat into the ground before hurling it 20 metres in the direction of mid-off.

Marsh was fined £31 for 7 declared, Western Australia 31 for 7 declared, Western Australia 31 for 7 declared.



Shout for joy: Phil Brown's relay leg gives England victory.

Mafe puts seal on a climactic day

By Pat Butcher

Adedeji Mafe's United Kingdom 200 metres record of 21.20 secs at Conford on Saturday put the perfect seal on his indoor season in a match whose fate was again decided in the last stride of the last event, the 4 x 400 metres relay, which England won to beat the United States by one point.

With team points as important as individual performances in a two-match, Bright and Phillips, the United States pole vaulters were badly advised to wait until 5.30 metres to enter the competition. They both failed and England took the maximum points.

Similarly, Ainsley Bennett's disqualification for running out of lane when finishing third in the 400 metres could have cost England dear. After seeing a video replay, some thought that Mafe also ran out of his lane in the 200 metres. But he survived, and broke his own United Kingdom record with a tremendous run from the outside lane, beating his colleague Todd Bennett.

Tonnie Campbell's hurdles displays were impressive. One of the few athletes in the two young teams who can think realistically of the Los Angeles Olympics, Campbell ran 7.58 secs, the world's fourth fastest 60 metres hurdles time, and then he did 7.59 secs in the B race.

Among the British victors, Dave Lewis's 7 min 55.99 secs in

the 3,000 metres was 38 secs faster than against Poland when he managed to finish second. Rob Harrison scored a valuable victory over Peter Elliott, who admitted that he "got it all wrong in the 800 metres."

Garry Cook is another who has yet to get it right at 800 metres. His 4.01 secs on the second leg was as significant a contribution as Phil Brown's 46.3 secs in overtaking the world junior record holder, Darrell Robinson on the last leg for victory.

TRACK (England unless stated) 100m: 1. N. G. G. 10.10; 2. J. G. 10.12; 3. L. 10.15; 4. H. 10.18; 5. A. 10.21; 6. K. 10.24; 7. T. 10.27; 8. M. 10.30; 9. S. 10.33; 10. B. 10.36; 11. J. 10.39; 12. P. 10.42; 13. D. 10.45; 14. C. 10.48; 15. W. 10.51; 16. R. 10.54; 17. I. 10.57; 18. O. 11.00; 19. F. 11.03; 20. Y. 11.06; 21. L. 11.09; 22. J. 11.12; 23. B. 11.15; 24. P. 11.18; 25. M. 11.21; 26. S. 11.24; 27. K. 11.27; 28. T. 11.30; 29. D. 11.33; 30. C. 11.36; 31. W. 11.39; 32. R. 11.42; 33. I. 11.45; 34. O. 11.48; 35. F. 11.51; 36. Y. 11.54; 37. L. 11.57; 38. J. 12.00; 39. B. 12.03; 40. P. 12.06; 41. M. 12.09; 42. S. 12.12; 43. K. 12.15; 44. T. 12.18; 45. D. 12.21; 46. C. 12.24; 47. W. 12.27; 48. R. 12.30; 49. I. 12.33; 50. O. 12.36; 51. F. 12.39; 52. Y. 12.42; 53. L. 12.45; 54. J. 12.48; 55. B. 12.51; 56. P. 12.54; 57. M. 12.57; 58. S. 13.00; 59. K. 13.03; 60. T. 13.06; 61. D. 13.09; 62. C. 13.12; 63. W. 13.15; 64. R. 13.18; 65. I. 13.21; 66. O. 13.24; 67. F. 13.27; 68. Y. 13.30; 69. 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DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS	COMPANY MEETING NOTICES
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NOTICES

**ROSECO N.Y. 1980
ANNUAL GOLF
MEETINGS**
**OF
SHARZHOUL**
to be held at the
Weeks, Rotterdam, on
29th March, 1980
hours.

AGENDA

1. Opening.
2. To receive Announcements of the Management for the financial year 1979.
3. To receive the Annual Accounts for calendar year 1979.
4. To determine the division of the profit.
5. Proposal to amend Articles of Association in conformity with the third act of the full Assembly.

[illegible]

Share Warrants are not negotiable and the holder must obtain a certificate signed by the Bank to exercise the Share Warrants. The Bank will not issue a certificate to the holder of a Share Warrant until the Bank with the National Trust Bank PLC in London has received the required documents above.

The receipt for Warrants or certificate will constitute evidence of the holder's right to attend and vote at the meeting of the presenters of the Meeting Hall. It is a condition of the Warrants to appoint a person to attend the Meeting Hall. The Company, to attend the Meeting Hall, must obtain from the National Trust Bank PLC a certificate of the formation of the company presented as the owner of the Warrants for the Share Warrants certificate of deposit.

Official owners of Certificates registered with the National Trust Bank (Northern) Limited on attending or voting at the Meeting Hall must obtain a receipt or certificate from the National Trust Bank (Northern) Limited on attending or voting at the Meeting Hall.

upon the Shares, and in the event
 if they desire to attend, they
 in person or to be represented
 they must obtain a form signed
 signed by National Bank of
 form must be presented to the
 the Board of Directors, together
 with the receipt and the
 the Sub-share Certificate of
 the deposit.
 Beneficial owners
 shall be deemed to be the
 other than those of National
 tional Bank of Commerce
 and Owners of National Bank
 Shares, who wish to be
 the Board of Directors, shall
 a proxy to attend and vote
 their stead, must be
 every day in the month of
 the day, the 22nd day of
 of their intentions.
 Chairman of the
 Board of Managing Directors
 Dated this 12th day
 1984
 P.O. Box 973, Rotterdam

MISCELLANEOUS
FINANCE

English and Dutch Investment Trust, N.V. English-Holland Investment Trust, N.V. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Holders of the Shares of the English-Holland Investment Trust, N.V. are invited to the Agreement of the 41st Annual General Meeting of the English-Holland Investment Trust, N.V. on Wednesday, 14th April 1961 with 10.00 hours in the morning at the Board Room of the English-Holland Investment Trust, N.V., 45 Beuch Street, L.L.K. on Monday the 10th April 1961 at 10.00 hours in the morning for the purpose of considering and voting on the resolutions proposed by the Board of Supervisors of the English-Holland Investment Trust, N.V. The Board of Supervisors of the English-Holland Investment Trust, N.V. is invited to the Annual General Meeting of the English-Holland Investment Trust, N.V. on Wednesday, 14th April 1961 in Amsterdam, for the purpose of considering and voting on the resolutions proposed by the Board of Supervisors of the English-Holland Investment Trust, N.V. The Board of Supervisors of the English-Holland Investment Trust, N.V. is invited to the Annual General Meeting of the English-Holland Investment Trust, N.V. on Wednesday, 14th April 1961 in Amsterdam, for the purpose of considering and voting on the resolutions proposed by the Board of Supervisors of the English-Holland Investment Trust, N.V.

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Times or
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telephone
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9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

INMENTS

CONCERT

BARBICAN HALL, Barbican
EC2 0 438 2891/01-6
5.30 p.m. S1
WOODWIND WORKSHOP
Principals work with you
on orchestral rep.

SHAW THEATRE 01-389 77
6005 (x)
INTERNATIONAL MUSIC 2
Sat 17 March 7.30

GLAZES KOCH &
Ment 19 March 7.30

ISRAEL
SARAHIN DANCE TROUPE
CHOR
March 7-30
HOLLYWOOD MANDEL
WOLFE
EUROPEAN FOLK GROUP
March 21-March 30
CLINT EASTWOOD & C
CASTLE
FESTIVAL 1984

THEATRE

9532 836 3678 or 572 6
9232 City Mpls. 836 9490
8.00, Sat 6.00 or 8.40 Thurs
10.00
BUCKY HENSON
JENNIFER L. FLANNERY
JILL BAKER in
SUFFICIENT
CARBOHYDRATE
by DENNIS POTTER
"Rudyard Kipling's
the 20th CENTURY
D. Mail "A masterful perform
Dismale Landin" Hobson, TIL

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The greening of a valley scarred by coal

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Once its coal fueled the Empire, sent ironclads to war, and warmed mansions of the men who owned it and the mean houses of those who worked it. Socialism rode on its raven-black back, and powerful men trembled before the radical and egalitarian ideals it engendered.

But 131 years after the first steam coal pit was sunk in the Rhondda Valley, an era is ending and by the end of this year no coal will be brought to the surface within its slopes.

The remaining workable reserves, at Mardy, are to be transported by underground conveyor and extracted at Tower Colliery in the Aberdare area.

The National Coal Board is seeking 200 voluntary redundancies and once they are secured, only 50 men in the Rhondda will be employed in an industry which once had a work force of more than 40,000.

The men of Mardy accepted the closure at an emotional and sometimes bitter meeting last week. Of all the pits in the Rhondda, Mardy was always the most militant. Its sobriquet of "Little Moscow" was gained by being first to enter a fight and last to leave.

Mr Eric Price, the lodge secretary, said: "Mardy has always been known as a close-knit militant lodge, but even we

have had to bow our heads to common sense. The longer the question of the link-up with Tower has gone on the more the morale has been sapped."

Mardy, which sinks 2,000-feet, accounts for most of the £7m a year losses of the two pits.

With Tower alone extracting the dry steam coal used in pharmaceutical plants, the board believes it can work the remaining reserves profitably.

Mrs Annie Powell, aged 77, a lifelong Rhondda resident, who became the first Communist mayor in Britain, has bitter-sweet feelings.

"I suppose I am glad the valley is no longer black, but to be green again is not enough. We gave everything for coal, but when I see our young people leaving to find work I wonder what coal gave to us."

When she was young, the valley reached its maximum output of 9.5 million tons and supported 168,000 people who relied almost exclusively on the 54 pits.

The mighty Rhondda Valley was torn and scarred, its slopes ripped and coal stacked high as fortunes were made by iron and coal masters.

But through coal board and government-assisted schemes, the valley is being replanted and becoming green again.



Winding down: A stark reminder of the Rhondda's dark past.



End of the line for Mardy coal wagons and a grimy but cheerful day in the early 1900s at the Glamorgan Colliery.

Anti-strike vote widens split in pit union

Continued from page 1

Yorkshire, the biggest coalfield with 56,000 miners. Mr David Miller, an official at the 2,100-man Kellingley colliery, predicted that last-minute meetings throughout the area would be solidly behind the action. He denied suggestions that some had voted to work normally.

Reports yesterday suggested that any of his members travelling to Nottinghamshire, they could encounter miners' wives, who believe their husbands should be allowed to work until the ballot is taken.

At Polkington colliery in West Lothian, Scotland, the 1,000 miners who voted to work normally will be faced by pickets from other Scottish collieries and by 270 craftsmen at the pit who opposed the stoppage but are now observing an instruction not to work.

Yesterday, Mr Scargill said coal stocks had been severely affected by the miners' long overtime ban. He estimated that power station stocks had been reduced from 34 million tonnes to 11 million. The National Coal Board says stocks have been reduced from 33 million tonnes to 28 million.

The overtime ban has had a minimal effect on pithead stocks, according to the board.

Police officers abducted by gunmen

Continued from page 1

married with three children. Both are stationed at Petworth. A spokesman for the police said that they were experienced men. It was police policy for officers facing such situations not to try to tackle gunmen but to meet their demands.

The man leading the hunt, Assistant Chief Constable (Operations), Mr David Scott, appealed to the hijackers to release his men safely.

Mr Scott added: "We desperately need the assistance of the public to find the police car."

"Our message to the public is: make careful note of the details of the vehicle, we are looking for it and if you sight it do not repeat not approach them, but notify the police immediately."

Phantom state in a phosphate desert

One can see the Moroccan point. The idea of Western Sahara as an independent state, and of La'you as its capital, does seem rather absurd when you are actually there.

La'you is a quintessentially provincial place, a scruffy little town in the middle of nowhere, redeemed only by a rather tasteful hotel in the Spanish Arabesque style, and by some smart housing development obviously done since the Moroccan takeover in 1976.

About 20 miles away, on the coast, is La'you Plage - a tiny fishing village flanking an impressive "complex" where phosphate, the territory's main export, is supposed to be processed and loaded on to ships. I say "supposed" because, when I was there, there was no phosphate in sight.

The 60-mile conveyor belt that brings it from the mine at Bu Craa was idle - stopped for regular maintenance, according to an amiable Moroccan engineer who showed me round the plant.

He seemed mildly embarrassed about this, perhaps because in the past the belt has been stopped by Polisario guerrillas in their fight against Moroccan domination.

Could that still be the case, in spite of the much-vaunted protective wall around the territory's "useful triangle"? Or has Morocco simply not bothered to reactivate it, given the very sluggish state of the phosphate market?

Morocco is one of the world's three largest phosphate producers even without the Western Sahara, and her interest is more in preventing anyone else from mining phosphate there than in actively exploiting the territory herself.

In Smara, some 140 miles inland, you can see a display of captured Polisario equipment, including four T55 tanks, lined up in front of the zawiya (something like a monastery) founded by a local saint.

At Tindouf, in Algeria, the Polisario have a much larger display of captured Moroccan weapons laid out in the middle of the desert. It includes mortars, anti-aircraft guns, fragments of aircraft, a mobile command post and several large Franco-Austrian SK 105mm tanks.

Of course, both sides say that what they have to show you is "only a sample", and that much of what they capture is recycled and used against its former owners.

In their "liberated territory", the Polisario also showed me wreckage of a Mirage F1, marked with the red star of Morocco, which they said had been shot down on October 1, and several US-manufactured cluster bombs which had landed harmlessly, it seemed, in the desert.

Visiting the "liberated territory" is quite an adventure. You sit in the front of an open Land-Rover, with no wind-screen, your face expertly swathed in a grey-blue turban (beware of letting it slip, I returned with an unsightly coating of sunburn scars on my nose), and are driven at what seems breakneck speed, but in fact is rarely above 50mph, across apparently featureless desert.

But the driver clearly knows where he is, for almost without changing direction you eventually arrive at what turns out to be a place - that is, a "river" (wad), with no actual water visible but a certain amount of scrub, usable for firewood, and sometimes a few buildings occupied by Polisario soldiers.

At one such place, Tifariti, a 20-year-old gardener who had studied agronomy at school in Cuba was doing an impressive job of making the desert bloom. He had a little market garden which supplied the troops with fresh lettuce, tomatoes and beetroots. The same phenomenon can be observed in the refugee camps around Tindouf.

Those refugee camps are also full of schools, six of which are "prefab" ones, donated by the Austrian Government (perhaps to make up for those Moroccan tanks). A group of jolly young men from an organization called *Talkshilfe*, associated with the Austrian trade unions, had come out to put the finishing touches.

In one school the headmaster told us the children benefited enormously from going to holiday in Europe. Apparently Britain is the only European country that does not have any.

Edward Mortimer

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

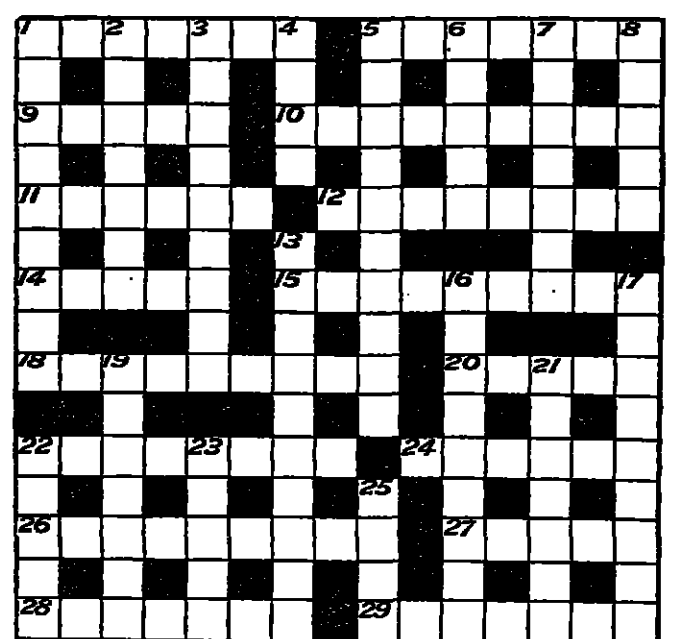
Royal engagements
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend the Commonwealth Day Observance Service at Westminster Abbey, arrive West Gate, 2.55; and later attend a Commonwealth Day Reception at Marlborough House, 6.30.
The Duke of Edinburgh attends a dinner in aid of the Museum of Army Flying at Fishmongers' Hall, EC4A 8.
The Duke of Gloucester opens the exhibition "Calligraphy '84" on behalf of the Society of Scribes and Illuminators at Central School of Art and Design, London.
Prince and Princess Michael of Kent attend a gala performance of *Gloriana* in aid of English National Opera, at the London Coliseum WC2, 7.15.

New exhibitions
Summerhill Artists Exhibition, Falmouth Art Gallery, Municipal Offices, Falmouth, Cornwall; Mon to Sat 10 to 12 to 4.30 (closed Sat & Sun, ends March 30).
The Nature of Painting (II) - Rhythm & Motion; Ivor Abrahams - The Garden Image; both exhibitions at the Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton; Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 10 to 5 (both end April 7).
Painting by Elizabeth Bairstow, The Dorset County Museum, Dorchester (normal opening hours, closed afternoon of Sat, March 17, ends April 28).
Ceramics and Paintings, Oxford Gallery, 23 High St, Oxford; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, (closed Sun) (ends April 11).
150 years of architectural drawings, Sheffield City Art Galleries, Weston Park, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 11 to 5 (ends April 8).

Music
British Music Week: Concert by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Victoria Hall, Huxley, 8.
Concert by the Priory Singers, Durham Cathedral, Chapter House, 8.

Talks, lectures
What is it? Where does it come from? The Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 2.
Is Science Manageable? by Professor Sir Douglas Hague, Goringdean Theatre, Architecture and Planning Building, University of Manchester, Manchester, 5.30.
Steam around Britain by Roger Green, the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, 6.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,376



- ACROSS**
- Writer's complaint about a grapple (7).
 - Foul-sounding hole for Bigglesworth (7).
 - Peace-keepers' share of such diamonds? (5).
 - No universal firing device for this vessel (9).
 - "For this the - Muse first trod the stage" (Pope) (6).
 - Nimble, he, manoeuvring for the battle (8).
 - Greek poet's messenger-bird? (5).
 - Perpetrator of misdeed or some other rank offence (9).
 - But their views are not only of the left (9).
 - First appearance of Uruguayan leader owing money (5).
 - Doctrine of a male tutor - Epicurus for one? (8).
 - Forces vandalized work of art (6).
 - Extortioner makes up here in East London, say (9).
 - State suffers an exodus to the country (5).
 - Outstanding feature of the defence (7).
 - Supervising writing of poetry, in Old English initially (7).
- DOWN**
- Woeful, but was in time to sail, we hear (9).
 - A hundred demand appliance (7).
 - Chair part made for the oldest inhabitant (9).
 - Recess turned down (4).
 - Mollusc left entangled in fairly attractive surroundings (10).
 - Terrier's memorial (5).
 - Colour swineherds finally went (7).
 - Most of the drink obtained by uninspired playing (5).
 - Teenager going up to receive social security (10).
 - Make an excavation below the present compiler's (9).
 - Statement of reasons to restrict an intoxicant (9).
 - Alaric, maybe, confused with 13's first reformer (7).
 - Moreover, many abandon doctors' positions (7).
 - The Cape's instruments of (5).
 - Relative is some Tuscan! (i.e. Cellini) (5).
 - Little maids from school, musically speaking (4).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,375 will appear next Saturday

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Nature notes

Many mistle-thrushes and blackbirds are singing, sometimes in neighbouring trees. With their first few notes, it is possible to confuse the two species; but the mistle-thrush stops abruptly after each phrase, as it does not know how to go on, while the blackbird's fluty opening is always followed by a muttered afterthought. Song-thrushes are unmistakable, with their continuous repetitions and variations; they are generally the last of the garden birds to go to roost, and the first to wake in the morning.

Grey wagtails - which apart from their slaty back are a brighter yellow than yellow wagtails - are returning from lowland waters to the fast hill streams where they will nest. Their song, not often heard, is a brisk warble. Pied wagtails are courting on the rooftops: two males offer chase a female with a light, bouncing flight.

Pale green leaves are appearing on the weeping willows, and the first hawthorn buds are breaking. The fat, furry catkins on the aspens are like animals' paws. Female gnats come out of hibernation, and will soon lay their floating eggs on stagnant pools; black flies gather round the ears of cows and horses.

DJM

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Proceedings on the Consolidated Fund Bill.
Lords (2.30): Telecommunications Bill, report, first day.

Anniversaries

Births: John Aubrey, antiquarian, Easton Priory, Wiltshire, 1626; John Daniell inventor of the electric cell of that name, London, 1790 (died on March 13, 1845, London); Gustav Kirchhoff, physicist, Königsberg, Prussia (Kalliningrad, USSR), 1824; Gabriele D'AAnnunzio, poet, dramatist, nationalist, Pescara, Italy, 1863; Vasil Nijinsky, ballet dancer and choreographer, Kiev, 1890; Jack Kerouac, poet and novelist, Lowell, Massachusetts, 1912; Deaths: Saint Gregory I, Pope 590-604, Rome, 604; Hilaira Conte de Chardonne, inventor of rayon, Paris, 1924; San Yee-San founder of the Chinese Kuomintang, President of the Republic of China, 1911-12, Peking 1925.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes announced on Saturday are: £100,000 APL 146171 (the winner lives in Ayrshire); £50,000 111LS 305662 (Kent); £25,000 2CK 576955 (Hampshire).

National day

The pear-shaped island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean celebrates the sixteenth anniversary of its independence from Britain today. With a mixed population of just under a million Indians, Creoles, Chinese, and people of European and African descent, the mainstay of the economy is sugar.

The week's walks

Today
Riverside Pubs, Prisons and Hidden Paths, meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30.
Tomorrow
Medieval Trade Guilds, meet Blackfriars Underground, 11. Inns of Court - Lawyers' London, meet Blackfriars Underground, 2. The Famous Square Mile - 2000 Years of History, meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30. Legal London, meet St Paul's Underground, 2. An evening in Roman London, meet Tower EBI Underground, 7. Mysterious Interiors of Hidden London, meet Holborn Underground, (Kingsway exit), 9.50.

Wednesday
The Famous Sherlock Holmes Mystery Tour, meet Baker Street Underground, 7.30. Streets paved with gold, includes visit to Stock Exchange and Guildhall, meet Bank Station (Royal Exchange exit), 2. Legal Pub Walk, meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30. A Journey through Dickens' London, meet Embankment Underground, 11. An Historic Pub Walk - Mayfair, meet Green Park Underground, 7.30.

Thursday
Historic Westminster, meet Westminster Underground, 11. Belgravia Upstairs & Downstairs, meet Sloane Square Underground, 2.

Friday
City Churches and Sir Christopher Wren, meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30.
Saturday
The Great Charles Dickens City Tour, meet St Paul's Underground, 7.30. 17th Century: Great Fire and Plague, meet Museum Underground (Fish Street Hill entrance), 11. 2000 Years of the Famous Square Mile, meet St Paul's Underground, 2.30. Kensington - a Royal London Village, meet High Street Kensington Underground, 2. An Historic Pub Walk - Covent Garden, meet Embankment Underground, 7.30.

Roads
Midlands: A49: Single lane traffic at junction A456 at Woolferton. A6: Josed diversion on Leicester - Derby road at Kegworth. A42: Traffic signals on Market Harborough - Lutterworth road at Lutterworth.
North: A1: Safety barriers between Micklethorpe and Wetherby. A19: Traffic lights between Thirsk and Easingwold, at Thoramby. A635: Single lane traffic and temporary lights at Wetherby. A636: Barnsley, Drainage and reconstruction.
Wales and West: A48: Width restrictions in Western Avenue, Cardiff. A40: Lane closures on Aberystwyth - Monmouth road north of Gibralt Tunnels. A36: Temporary traffic lights at Llanidloes, St. Asaph. A36: Temporary traffic lights at Church Street, Warrminster.
Scotland: A74: Two-way traffic on southbound carriageway at Beattock Summit. A72: Traffic lights west of A702, junction in Peebles. A84: Single lane traffic at south end of Lurnaim, south of Strathclyde.

Information supplied by the AA.

Weather

A complex area of low pressure over England and Wales will drift southwards into Biscay with a trough of low pressure from NE Scotland to SW England weakening.

W Midlands, NW, central N, NE England, Borders Edinburgh, Dundee: Cloudy, rain turning showery with rain or snow, wind variable light becoming NE moderate; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

Channel Islands, SW England: Mostly cloudy with rain. W and S, W, Wales: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain and drizzle turning showery with snow or rain, moderate to strong, wind N to NE moderate but fresh on coasts at first; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

Ile of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Windy showers with snow or rain, moderate to strong, wind NW to N strong to gale, moderating later; max temp 4 to 6C (39 to 43F).
Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Windy with outbreaks of sleet or snow, wind variable becoming N to NE strong but moderating again later; max temp 2 to 4C (36 to 39F).

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Engaging, mainly light or moderate; showers; see sight. St George's Channel: Wind northerly becoming northeasterly moderate or strong; see sight. English Channel: Wind northerly moderate locally fresh or strong at first; see sight locally rough at first.

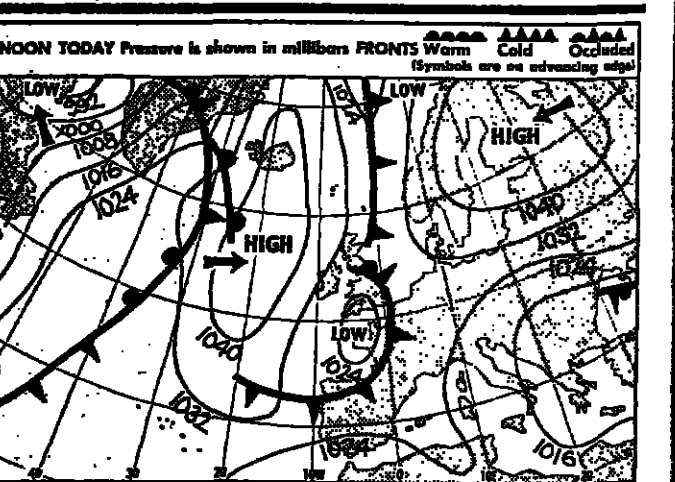
Lighting-up time
London 6.20 pm to 5.48 am
Bristol 6.40 pm to 5.58 am
Edinburgh 6.50 pm to 6.10 am
Penzance 6.55 pm to 6.10 am

Yesterday
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.
Belfast 10.5 C 49 F
Birmingham 10.5 C 50 F
Bristol 10.5 C 50 F
Cardiff 10.5 C 50 F
Edinburgh 10.5 C 50 F
Glasgow 10.5 C 50 F
Liverpool 10.5 C 50 F
London 10.5 C 50 F
Manchester 10.5 C 50 F
Newcastle 10.5 C 50 F
Nottingham 10.5 C 50 F
Oxford 10.5 C 50 F
Penzance 10.5 C 50 F
Perth 10.5 C 50 F
Plymouth 10.5 C 50 F
Reading 10.5 C 50 F
Sheffield 10.5 C 50 F
Southampton 10.5 C 50 F
Stirling 10.5 C 50 F
Tottenham 10.5 C 50 F
Wolverhampton 10.5 C 50 F
Wrexham 10.5 C 50 F

London
Saturday: Temp: max 6 to 8 to 8 pm, 8C (46F); min 4 to 6 to 6 pm, 4C (39F).
Sunday: Temp: max 6 to 8 to 8 pm, 8C (46F); min 4 to 6 to 6 pm, 4C (39F).
Monday: Temp: max 6 to 8 to 8 pm, 8C (46F); min 4 to 6 to 6 pm, 4C (39F).

High and lowest
Saturday: Highest temp: Carriageway 11C (52F); lowest temp: Gower 4C (39F).
Sunday: Highest temp: Carriageway 11C (52F); lowest temp: Gower 4C (39F).
Monday: Highest temp: Carriageway 11C (52F); lowest temp: Gower 4C (39F).

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High tides			
Location	AM	PM	HT
London Bridge	7.55	8.43	5.5
Aberdeen	8.12	8.50	5.2
Avalonmouth	8.28	9.07	5.5
Belfast	8.44	9.22	5.2
Bristol	8.50	9.38	5.5
Cardiff	12.24	1.12	5.2
Devonport	11.58	1.47	5.0
Falmouth	8.08	8.87	5.0
Glasgow	11.11	11.40	5.0
Hull	8.10	8.53	4.3
Holyhead	8.57	9.35	4.0
Leith	12.21	1.09	5.5
Liverpool	9.32	10.13	4.4
Lowestoft	5.37	6.22	7.3
Manchester	0.00	0.00	0.0
Margate	6.19	6.58	3.8
Mersey Haven	12.11	1.53	5.1
Newcastle	1.05	1.15	5.2
Oban	11.18	1.24	5.2
Portsmouth	12.08	1.34	1.2
Portsmouth	5.48	6.36	5.6
Sheerness	0.33	0.26	4.0
Southampton	5.30	6.12	5.7
Swansea	12.21	1.14	7.1
Torquay	10.51	1.15	5.2
Widnes-on-Naze	5.53	6.42	5.2

Around Britain			
Location	Sun Rain	Max	Min
Scotland	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Bedfordshire	0.2	7.46	Rain pm
Bristol	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Cardiff	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Edinburgh	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Glasgow	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Hull	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Leith	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Liverpool	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Manchester	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Newcastle	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Nottingham	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Oxford	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Perth	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Plymouth	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Reading	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Sheffield	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Southampton	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Stirling	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Tottenham	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Wolverhampton	0.2	6.43	Drizzle
Wrexham	0.2	6.43	Drizzle

Abroad

MODAY: c, cloud; f, fair; h, fog; r, rain; s, sun; an, snow.

C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F				
113	59	Capetown	c	11	52	Managua	c	11	52	Rio de Jan.	c	30	85
118	61	Casablanca	c	11	52	Managua	c	14	57	Rio de Jan.	c	30	85
118	59	Casablanca	c	11	52	Managua	c	14	57	Rio de Jan.	c	30	85
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